

## 6th Grade North Middle School News ~ May 2014

Welcome to our new 6th graders!

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Sioux City Community Schools: [www.siouxcityschools.org](http://www.siouxcityschools.org)

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### News from the desk of the Principal, Jeanene Sampson:

#### Welcome to our new 6th graders, Class of 2021!

Middle school students have individual unique academic, social and emotional needs. It is North Middle's mission to **empower** students to achieve academic success as well as grow socially and emotionally in a safe environment. We are dedicated to assisting each student's transition from elementary to middle school and to preparing our students to be successful in high school and beyond. North Middle is one more stepping stone in your family's "journey of education". Our ultimate goal is to provide guidance to each student working toward a common goal of success beyond high school.

This time of year brings with it so much excitement for each of you to transition into middle school. Each year it's a pleasure to welcome a new group of 6th graders.

#### When will my student and I get to meet the new teachers in 6th grade ~

Patriot Camp is a day camp when we bring classrooms from each of the feeder schools together in small groups to meet the 6th grade teachers, tour NM, play some games with our current NM students and meet new students from other incoming 5th grade classrooms. A post card will be coming home soon with your 5th grade student. We will also host an open house in August for just the 6th graders. At this event you will have the opportunity to get your student's schedule, locker assignment, meet the teachers and tour the building.

#### What will my student's schedule look like for next year ~

The NM building itself appears to be very large and intimidating. I am going to do the best I can to explain how your students day will "flow" and eliminate many of those concerns. Morning recess time for all 6th graders is in a separate location from the 7th and 8th graders. Throughout the day your 6th grade student will primarily be in their "6th grade house or POD". The 6th grade POD is located upstairs toward the back of the building. Students will flow between all of their core classes within their team of teachers in the POD.

Each 6th grader will be assigned to a "team" and depending on his/her team your student will have the same teachers they will see for all of their core classes. Each team has a math, science, English and reading teacher that are JUST for your student's team. The only time your student will come out of the POD will be for lunch, and two periods of exploratory classes (P.E., choir, band, art, etc.). When they come out for these classes they pass in their own separate hallways. The only time they pass with the other grade levels is when they enter or leave the building.

Many families appreciated hearing what I just told you because they pull up in front of the building to drop their student off and what they see is a large building thinking all grade levels intermix all day and that is not the case. We are so fortunate to have three separate "houses" or "PODS" in our building so you basically have three separate middle schools under one roof.

#### What does the scheduling process look like for my 6th grader ~

Truly your student does not have a lot of options in their schedule as a 6th grader. NM has an 8 period day and 5 of their periods are reading, math, English, science and social studies. Each 6th grader must take technology and P.E. (which is one period) and then lunch - that takes away two periods. They are left with one open period, which is exploratory, unless they are in TAG, orchestra, band and/or choir, or intervention reading/math. Your son's or daughter's 5th grade teachers play a significant role in selecting their schedule and we truly appreciate that. You also each received a copy, of the courses they are signed up to take, at your 5th grade conferences.

# DATES TO REMEMBER

May 1, Thursday	NWAEA Book Bash Competition at Northwest AEA, 8:30 am - 12:00 pm
May 1, Thursday	6/7/8 Band Concert, big gym, 7:00-8:30 pm
May 2, Friday	7th Grade STEM Festival at Briar Cliff, 9:00 am - 2:40 pm
May 2, Friday	8th Grade Tolerance Assembly - Phil Gans in the big gym, 2:00 - 2:45 pm
May 3, Saturday	Band Flower Sales pick-up, NMS lunchroom, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
May 5 - 12	Scholastic BOGO Book Fair, Media Center
May 6, Tuesday	8th Grade TAG Art to Joslyn Museum, Omaha
May 6, Tuesday	Orchestra Concert, 7:00-8:00 pm
May 7, Wednesday	7th Grade Math Bee at Morningside College, 8:13 am - 1:00 pm
May 8, Thursday	Choir Concert, 6th Grade at 6:00 pm / 7th Grade at 7:00 pm / 8th Grade at 8:00 pm
May 12, Monday	Student Library materials due
May 15, Thursday	Talent Show Rehearsal, big gym, 2:50 - 5:00 pm
May 16, Friday	Talent Show, big gym, 2:00 - 2:45 pm
May 19 - 21	4th Quarter Common Assessments
May 22, Thursday	Parent meeting for DC trip, media center, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
May 23, Friday	* LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - 1 hour early out * End of 4th quarter * 8th Grade Celebration, big gym, 9:30 am - 11:00 am



## Administrators

Jeanene Sampson ..... Principal  
 Joni Swenson ..... Vice-Principal  
 James Cline ..... Vice Principal

## 6th Grade Counselor

Ms. Mendenhall

## 6th Grade Team Time

2nd period 9:06-9:51

# PATRIOT CAMP

Our North Middle School Patriot Camp is designated to focus on the transition from 5th to 6th grade.

Wednesday ~ Thursday ~ Friday

May 7 ~ 8 ~ 9

9:15 - 11:00 am

2014-2015 6th grade counselor : Ms. Greer

## Washington, D.C. Trip • May 31 - June 2

There will be a final parent meeting for the parents of students going on the Washington D.C. trip with Mr. Sitzmann. We will go over what to bring, when to meet, rooming, answering questions from students and parents, and our proposed itinerary. It is essential that all parents attend, or contact Mr. Sitzmann to make sure everyone is well informed.

**The meeting will be Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the North Middle Media Center.**

The Sioux City Explorers will offer their attendance incentive again this school year. Any student that missed **less than five days of school for the entire school year** receives a ticket that may be redeemed for one free student ticket and one free adult ticket to the June 2 or June 3 game. In order to get certificates distributed before school ends, April 30 is the cutoff date for attendance.

Explorers



### 2014-2015 Bussing

Middle school 'walk zone' is less than 2 miles.

High school 'walk zone' is less than 3 miles.

Any 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who will no longer qualify for bussing in High School will receive a letter in the mail.

We offer paid bussing if space is available at \$28.00 round trip, \$14 one way on an existing route and bus stop.

All **paid** students **MUST REAPPLY** for bussing every year by completing an application and marking the appropriate box requesting paid bussing. **Applications will now to be processed in the summer for the next school year.** Please complete an application ASAP and bring it to school to be forwarded to transportation for processing this summer for the 2014-2015 school year.

Transportation is not provided for students attending a school outside of their home attendance boundary.

[News from  
the school nurse  
Julie Thiele](#)



### Important Immunization Requirement for Middle School

The State of Iowa now requires a **TDAP vaccination** for all students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Tdap is a booster vaccine for older children, adolescents, and adults. It safely protects against 3 dangerous diseases: tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough (also called pertussis).

This requirement will help protect your child and others in school and the community from whooping cough. In 2012, whooping cough was widespread in the United States and in Iowa with approximately 417% more persons with pertussis disease compared to the average of the past 5 years. (Iowa Department of Public Health)

All 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will need to provide proof of receiving the Tdap vaccination before enrolling for school in August 2014. Many students may have already received this immunization. Please be sure to provide the school with an updated immunization record if your student has already received the immunization or if they receive it during this school year. Records may be faxed to North Middle at 277-5941.

### **Medication: End of School Year**

If your child has medication at school, the medication will be sent home with your child on the last day of school. Please check with your child for the medication.

# What is Your Student Learning?

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ENGLISH



Teachers: Mrs. LaFerrier  
Mrs. Moseman  
Mrs. Jordt  
Ms. Sturgeon

National Poetry Month is a month-long, national celebration of poetry established by the Academy of American Poets. The concept is to widen the attention of individuals and the media—to the art of poetry, to living poets, to our complex poetic heritage, and to poetry books and journals of wide aesthetic range and concern. We hope to increase the visibility and availability of poetry in popular culture while acknowledging and celebrating poetry's ability to sustain itself in the many places where it is practiced and appreciated. [<http://www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/47>]

This quarter your sixth grader will embark upon a journey into many kinds of poetry during this National Poetry Month. One of our 6<sup>th</sup> grade English assessment this quarter is writing a collection of poetry. Through the study of a novel written in narrative poetry, we will gain understanding and familiarity of the genre. Students will write many different kinds of poetry.

We will finish the year by writing a short narrative essay on our best or worst day. We encourage you to talk to you child about some possible ideas for topics. Please also encourage your son or daughter to “stay the course” as we continue into this final quarter of the year. We believe students will gain some valuable knowledge about poetry and narrative writing and be able to express themselves in new ways.

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE READING



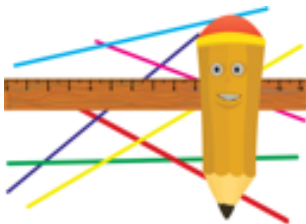
Teachers: Mrs. Bestgen  
Ms. Garcia  
Ms. Sturgeon  
Mrs. Ahrendsen

Rhythm, Rhyme and Repetition in Reading  
(Alliteration Abounds and Astounds)  
Humbly submitted by Ms. Sturgeon (6th grade poet laureate)

Fourth quarter is here at last,  
The school year has gone really fast.  
In reading we will now study rhyme,  
For our 6th graders, it's a really great time.  
Our favorite is listening for sound.  
Where zoom, buzz and crash will astound.  
Onomatopoeia, alliteration and free verse,  
Make the students say, “Hey, it could be worse.”  
Repetition and rhythm are way too much fun,  
For Bestgen, Garcia, Sturgeon and Ahrendsen.

Then we move onto figurative language,  
Hyperboles bring exaggeration.  
Similes are as easy as pie,  
Metaphors become birds in the sky.  
Our lessons delve into personification,  
Where stanzas hold our hands of creation.  
Our five senses assist in our imagery,  
Where poetic lines form pictures to help us see,  
That our feelings and expressions will always be good,  
When we learn about tone, voice and creating mood.

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MATH



Teachers: Mr. Linafelter  
Mrs. Pappadackis  
Mrs. Neumann  
Mrs. Decker

The sixth grade math classes are finishing up the year studying area of polygons, volume, and surface area. We will learn to compute surface area from using nets or patterns of solid figures that can be folded to create the shape. The second week in May will be spent reviewing all the math we have learned this year. The final math test will be taken Monday and Tuesday, May 19-20. Lots of concepts, lots of learning!

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SCIENCE



Teachers: Mr. Rorris  
Ms. Sanford  
Mr. Klingensmith

In Science, we are currently studying Catastrophic Events. We have been examining weather patterns and answering questions about the earth's natural catastrophic events. Your child has been learning critical-thinking skills and developing a positive attitude towards science. We have been studying how air moves and forms storms. Our students were able to watch the movement of hot and cold air through a variety of classroom Labs. It has been an exciting unit. We are looking forward to learning about Earthquakes and other natural disasters in the coming weeks. Thank you for allowing us to work and learn with your child this year! It has been more than wonderful!

### 6th GRADE RED TEAM

Mitch Rorris.....Science  
Jamie Ahrendsen ..... Reading  
Tim Foix ..... Social Studies  
Cat Moseman .....English  
Cheryl Pappadackis.....Math  
Liz Sturgeon ..... Learning Strategist  
Mary Jordt ..... Learning Strategist



### 6th GRADE BLUE TEAM

Eve Sanford.....Science  
Karen Bestgen.....Reading  
Jennifer LaFerrier.....English  
Brian Linafelter.....Math  
Jane Gustavson.....Social Studies  
Pam Decker ..... Learning Strategist  
Erika Garcia ..... Dual Language

# Team News

## 6th Grade Red Team

The last weeks of school are just as important as the beginning of the school year. Please keep on top of your student's progress in all classes. This can be done by checking Pinnacle on the district website. Students will be taking finals the week of May 19-21. These scores will be ten percent of the grade. **Attendance during this last week is imperative!** Report cards will be distributed to the students on May 23 - the last day of school.



## 6th Grade Blue Team

The students should be proud of their accomplishments and continue to strive during the last quarter. We have enjoyed getting to know your child and look forward to a very productive last quarter. A reminder to parents to help your child remember our expectations. It is the time of the year when students need to revisit how to study, be prepared for class and remember appropriate behavior. As the days get nicer, many students need to remember we continue to have a lot of learning to do. So please help us reinforce this at home. Also, please contact our team if you have any concerns regarding your child's success. We appreciate all of your involvement and support this year, as we cannot do it without your support at home.

### Nondiscrimination Statement

The Sioux City Community School District is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. It is an unfair or discriminatory practice for any educational institution to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, age, disability, socioeconomic status, or veteran status in any program or activity. Inquiries or grievances regarding compliance of Title VI, Title VII and Title IX of the Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Iowa Code sections 216.9 and 19B.11 may be directed to Marilyn Charging, Director of Educational Equity and Student Activities at 627 4th Street, Sioux City, IA 51101, (712) 279-6075.

## From the Library...



- ◆ We are down to the last month of school! With your help we can keep kids reading and interested in titles that will keep them reading through the summer. Our “late” Buy One Get One Free Scholastic Book Fair will begin on Monday, May 9. This will be a chance to get some great bargains on books. We plan on closing the fair on the afternoon of May 12.
- ◆ Keep your child reading and eReading all summer! At [www.mackinvia.com](http://www.mackinvia.com), your child can read books free online and now there are some audio books to listen to, also! Get the login from us! There are free books at [Project Gutenberg](http://Project Gutenberg) and [WILBOR Overdrive](http://WILBOR Overdrive), choose Sioux City Schools, and use an “s” before your student ID number students! How about this for younger students: [Unite for Literacy](http://Unite for Literacy): books in many languages! If you want to purchase audio books or eReading, remember iTunes, and use the free Kindle app on your device or phone.
- ◆ Read about the “summer slide” by watching these videos: [Summer Learning](http://Summer Learning); [Today Show Summer Reading](http://Today Show Summer Reading); [Huffington Post Summer Learning](http://Huffington Post Summer Learning); or see the site: [Scholastic Summer](http://Scholastic Summer). Visit sites like [www.freerice.com](http://www.freerice.com) and sites the teachers recommend, including keyboarding practice sites!
- ◆ Don’t forget about the public library this summer! Take your child or children there for a day of reflection, exploring, and learning, and sign up for the Summer Reading Program. Online, visit their web site for ideas about reading and check out their research databases: [www.siouxcitylibrary.org](http://www.siouxcitylibrary.org).
- ◆ The votes are in! Students in Iowa who read from our Iowa Children’s Choice award and Iowa Teen award lists voted and chose *Because of Mr. Terupt* by Rob Buyea and *Legend* by Marie Lu. *Divergent* by Veronica Roth won the high school book award. I tell the students to read the book and THEN see the movie! But if they switch it around we are happy, also! We will have a new display next year and will vote again in March.
- ◆ During the last quarter, the library staff has been focusing on online assessments. Currently, the 8th grade English students are studying social issues topics using the SIRS database. We will also be working on a copyright lesson with the technology classes. Poetry is a focus for Language Arts and Reading classes in April and May.
- ◆ We take many requests for books and use our Barnes and Noble credit, fine monies and budget dollars to constantly upgrade our collection. The wish lists get very long though! Thanks to our helpers this year who help process the books, Becky Trout, Karen Gleeson and Ann Bradshaw!
- ◆ All fines should be paid now!! Eighth graders will not be able to attend the end-of-year celebration if they have lost items from the library, or lost textbooks. All books are due May 12! Students receive email reminders from us or from their TA teacher. Thank you for your help with fines and getting books back on time. Student may not work off lost books after May 9, only late fees.
- ◆ Keep up this summer by clicking “like our Facebook page” on the North Middle Website, or the North Middle library web site. Thanks Mr. Henn for your work on the Facebook page! Questions? Email me [sweenes@live.siouxcityschools.com](mailto:sweenes@live.siouxcityschools.com)

**Save these for North Middle!** All Hy-Vee receipts should have been turned in by April 29. We do not save receipts from May 1-August 14. August 15 will start a new collection year. Old receipts cannot be accepted next year. We receive \$1 for every \$100 in receipts. Please save BoxTops, Tyson A+ labels and pop tabs also-- thank you!

## FUN FACTS

L. Frank Baum made up stories to tell neighborhood children. When he was telling one story, the children asked him to make up a name for the place where the story took place. Baum spotted his file cabinets labeled A–N and O–Z. Maybe you know his story called *The Wizard of Oz*?

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## Wellness Tip: Be An Active Family

Physical activity is important for children and adults of all ages. Being active as a family can benefit everyone. Adults need 2 1/2 hours a week of physical activity and children need 60 minutes a day.

- **Include work around the house** - involve the kids in yard work and other active chores around the house. Have them help you with raking, weeding, planting or vacuuming.
- **Use what is available** - Plan activities that require little or no equipment or facilities. Examples include walking, jogging, jumping rope, playing tag and dancing. Find out what programs your community recreation center offers for free or minimal charge.