



Welcome to 6th grade!!

Dear Families and Students,

Welcome back for another great year at José Barrios! Sixth grade is an exceptional year for students: they have the responsibility of being the leaders in the school, and they develop the maturity to transition to middle school next year. As the teachers, parents, and students, we will all work together to have a fun and successful year!

Schedule

Ms. Pierce will teach Math and Science, and Ms. Love will teach English Language Arts and Social Studies. Students will have 90-minute blocks of Math and ELA in the morning, transitioning between classes at 10:30. In the afternoon, students will have 4.5 weeks each of Science and Social Studies per 9-week quarter.

Electives

Sixth grade students get the opportunity to learn how to play an instrument in band class! Students will choose to take Band or Art and PE. If students choose Band, they will attend Band class daily. If students choose Art and PE, they will attend PE and Art twice a week.

Homework Policy

Ms. Pierce: Students will have time during class to complete homework. All homework must be turned in by 8:30 AM on the day after it is assigned.

- Late homework may have the following consequences:
 - The grade will be reduced.
 - If homework is missing, students will receive a color change to orange and be required to stay in at recess to work on homework.
- If you are absent, you will have one extra day for each day you are absent. When you return to school after an absence, it is *your responsibility* to ask me for the homework you missed. You must also copy your missing assignments from my planner.

Ms. Love: For ELA homework, students will read nightly and complete a reading log 5 nights/week. I check reading logs daily in class. Students receive their reading log every Monday and turn it in the next Monday. If the reading log is incomplete, students will lose points on the assignment and receive a color change to orange. If the reading log is missing, students will receive a color change to orange and be given one day to turn it in before the grade is recorded as a zero. When a student completes their AR goal for the quarter, they are no longer required to complete a reading log until the next quarter. (Of course they should still read nightly!)

Accelerated Reader (AR)

We READ a lot in 6th grade! In addition to reading class novels and assignments, students will also always have an independent book they are reading. Students will read 25 – 40 pages a night 5 times a week and record their responses on a weekly reading log. As students finish books, they take a computer AR test on the book. The AR program keeps track of students' scores and the number of points they earn for each book read. Students have an individualized mandatory point goal to meet during each 9-week grading period. Parents may check their students' progress on their AR goal by clicking on the AR link on our 6th grade website.

Rewards and Consequences

We have high expectations for 6th grade work and behavior, and we know that every student can exceed our expectations! Every Friday afternoon students who had 2 or less color changes to orange or red for the week; have no missing work; and are making progress on their AR goal will get to participate in Fun Friday: a fun

activity or outing to Virginia St or Penny Park. Students who did not meet those expectations will have an opportunity to get caught up on their work in a study hall period.

Every quarter we will also have an incentive field trip. To participate in the field trip, students must have 9 or less strikes for the whole quarter; have met their AR goal; and have no missing work. Students who do not meet those expectations will have a day-long study hall the day of the field trip. If the student does not come to school that day, the student will receive 5 days of lunch detention.

6th Grade Website

Please check out our website at <http://welovejosebarrios.weebly.com/> You will find links to good resources and some downloads of commonly used documents. Also, you will find incredibly cute pictures of your children hard at work!

Jose Barrios' Healthy Snacks Policy

Sixth graders have growing bodies that need a lot of healthy food to keep them attentive and ready to learn and play. We will work to provide healthy snacks for your child daily. If you would like to help us by sending a healthy snack for your child's class once a month, please indicate that on the back page. Some of our students do have nut allergies. Please do not send any food containing nuts to school. Also, please do not allow your child to bring junk food like chips or candy to school. They will not be allowed to eat it in the classroom, hallways, or playground.

Sixth grade bodies and brains also need a lot of water! Please send a refillable water bottle labeled with your student's name to school.

Communication

Each student has a daily planner in which they write their nightly homework assignments and record their behavior color. This allows parents to ensure that their student is being responsible for his/her work and behavior. Also, if we need to send an individual note to a parent, we will write it in the student's planner. Parents should check and initial the planner nightly. Students will receive a color change if their planner is not signed at least once a week.

Contact Us

Ms. Pierce's email is hpierce@silverschools.org and phone number is 956-7135

Ms. Love's email is nlove@silverschools.org and phone number is 313-9463

No calls after 7:00 pm please! Let us know if you ever have any questions or concerns!

Absences

Our curriculum in 6th grade moves very quickly, especially in Math. Often, we will cover one objective a day. It's important for students to be in class so that they have the opportunity to learn and practice the new skill. Students with excessive absences often struggle academically simply because they have not been present for instruction. Please keep your child at home if sick, but otherwise do everything possible to ensure that your student is present to benefit from instruction. If your child needs to stay home, please make sure to call the front office or to send an excuse note within three days of the absence.

Back To School Open House Night

Please come explore our classrooms and learn more about the learning adventures we will be taking this year. August 28th 5:30 – 6:00 for 1 – 3rd grade and 6:00 – 6:30 for 4th to 6th grade.

Thank you!

We know that we are going to have a great 6th grade year! We look forward to getting to know you and your students this year! We will make a great team!

Please fill out the following pages and return them to your student's homeroom teacher.

Sincerely,

Hillary Pierce & Nora Love

Student name _____ Parent Name(s) _____

To help us begin to get to know your student, please answer these quick questions. Thank you!

- Does your child wear glasses? If so, in what circumstances should they wear them? Do the glasses stay at school or come home every day?

- Because it can be difficult to make a phone call during class, it is often easiest for us to text a parent if there is a quick question or concern. Is it ok for us to text you? If so, please list the parent's name and a good phone number.

- How does your child usually leave school at the end of the day? (Remember to please send a note if anything out of the normal routine is going to happen.)

- May we post pictures of your child on our 6th grade website?

- Would you like to be included on a monthly snack calendar to provide a healthy snack for your child's homeroom? (No nuts, please.)

_____ Yes (thank you!!) Days that usually work best for you:

- Most importantly, what would you like us to know about your child?

We are very excited to be your child's teachers this year!