

Welcome Back!!

Hello everyone and welcome back to school! I am very happy to begin another exciting school year with a great group of professional students. I know they are just as excited as I am to spend hours crunching numbers in math, learning the intricacies of vocabulary, literacy and math. What else would a 6th grader want to be doing??

I want to share a little about myself as a chance for you to get to know me. This 2023-2024 school year is my seventh year teaching at Hudson Park Elementary. I'm a certified PreK-12 classroom teacher as well as having received a Master's in Early Childhood Education. I taught at Yankton Arthur Academy in St. Helens for 4 years and I spent a year teaching English in South Korea. That was my first time in Asia, hopefully not the last. It was a great life experience and something I would highly recommend to anyone. It reaffirmed one truth I learned before I left. Kids are the most important people in the world. They keep us on our toes each day and allow me to have the best job I could hope for. That is why I love working with them. My goal this year and every year

is to help my students develop a joy for learning. I believe children all have in them the potential to grow and flourish into whatever they want to be. I hope to create an environment in my classroom where everyone feels safe, respected and prepared for the next school year. In my years working with kids I have found it is a more of a responsibility than a job to be a teacher. With that responsibility comes the greatest joy a person can have knowing they impacted a child's life in a positive way.

General Class Schedule (Will vary on Tuesdays and Wednesdays)

8:00 – Breakfast
8:10 – Morning Meeting
8:30 – English Language (ELA) Block
9:15 – Small Group Reading
9:45 – Morning Recess
10:00 – Math Block
11:00 – English Language (ELA) Block
11:45 – Lunch
12:15 – Lunch Recess
12:45 – English Language (ELA) Block
1:15 – Specials
1:50 – Enrichment (Science/Social Studies)

Homework Policy

All of my students are held to very high academic standards and will work very hard each school day to accomplish their individual learning goals. Students must be ready to begin lessons promptly at 8:30 every day and will have really earned themselves a break from academics by the end of each school day.

Therefore, this year there will be NO REGULAR daily homework sent home with 6th graders. However, please note that all students are required to complete their schoolwork quickly and neatly during lessons. If a student has unfinished or messy work, that work will be sent home as homework to finish or re-do. They are also able to access their SAVVAS and BIG IDEAS MATH account online at home to finish their work.

Special projects will occasionally be sent home with students. These projects will be mentioned in monthly classroom newsletters and will come home with specific instructions and due dates. Always check your child's backpack after school. Please feel free to email with any questions or concerns regarding homework.

Our Class Rules (Organization and Respect)

1. Always Raise your hand
2. Respect everyone
3. Follow directions
4. Do your best
5. Wait our turn to speak
6. Come to class prepared

Disciplinary Procedures

These expectations are put in to keep the classroom safe, fun and full of learning. When students are off task, we will have a mild consequence put in to keep things moving along smoothly. I will give them a calm and quiet warning during class time to make sure they understand the situation. The

next step will be a PLEDGE SHEET. Pledge sheets are completed at lunch recess or sometimes in the classroom. These proceedings are certainly not intended to be an every day occurrence. It is my pleasure to lead with positivity and excitement in the classroom. I want to keep them prepared for the coming grades and accountable for the work we will do. They will never feel looked down upon or belittled in my class. I lead by example and do my utmost to encourage my students with a smile on my face and love in my heart.

The Goal

Here is the set of goals I am trying to accomplish: My aim is to create a situation where we have a class full of self-managers. They are armed with tools to know what to do at any moment of the day. They will be motivated to always be on task. I understand that children need direction otherwise they will fall into the trap of being distracted or off task. I also understand that school can be very difficult and sometimes not the most fun thing ever. I will do everything I can to make this a fun and exciting learning environment. Our economy system will give them something to do between all the other student expectations.

Economy System

As a reward for following directions and rules, I will be giving out currency in the form of dollars. They can save up as much or as little money they want in order to participate in my student store. They can participate as they see fit. If they want to save up money to get higher pricing items it is their right.

As the year goes by I will see how well my students are taking care of their money. As a reward for being responsible and showing they can handle the responsibility that comes with an economy system, we may expand it. BUT more on that will come when we get to it. This will be a fun extra way to teach them a little about money handling, working hard, saving and of course (the fun part) spending. As previously stated, they will all have

classroom jobs, which will alternate quarterly, but their real job is being students and compassionate citizens, that is how they will make most of their money.

The one thing I ask is for an understanding that once the money leaves my hand and goes into their possession it is their responsibility. There will be no complaining or mention of other people taking money and so on. The reason we are going to start slowly with this is because of the silliness that comes with pretend money.

I have gathered some fun school supplies that I already know kids love. This keeps the day a little more interesting. I will do my best to keep it stocked, but some times parents have certain rules of what their child can and can't have so any advice/participation is always appreciated. The more we can put into it, the better it will all be. The student store, along with their personal businesses is truly a treat to behold. We won't begin the year with personal businesses just yet, but that will certainly be something we can all look forward to.

Please always feel free to contact me by phone, in-person or by email if you have any questions or concerns.