

**Sixth Grade Information Packet
Holy Rosary School
2011-2012**

Malia Santucci, Teacher

Welcome to Curriculum Night
Holy Rosary School
Sixth Grade-Mrs. Santucci
Parent Information

I am very pleased to have your child as one of my students this year. I look forward to the many learning adventures we'll take together. My role is to support you, the primary educator, in providing your student a well-balanced curriculum and appropriate instructional approach. As a team, we'll make this sixth grade year a great success.

Behavior Expectations

Good behavior will always be reinforced in my class. Rewards include verbal praise, team points, peer praise letters, and "No-Monkey-Business" parties. These positive incentives provide the students a variety of ways to shine and be recognized.

I encourage each student to use his/her best self-control in our school environment. Our classroom rules are:

1. Follow directions the first time they are given.
2. Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak.
3. Change tasks quickly and quietly.
4. Show respect.

Consequences

If a student makes an unwise choice and does not follow these rules, I will give the student a verbal reminder. Quietly redirecting the child's behavior through restating what needs to be done gives the child the opportunity to follow directions properly with no negative consequence. If disruptive behavior continues, the child is moved to a better learning space within the classroom. If his/her behavior continues to disturb the learning environment the child is removed from the classroom for 5 minutes. After a brief conference with the teacher privately, the student may return to the class, working in a space most conducive for the learning environment for all. If these three steps fail to stop the misbehavior, the student will forfeit recess that day and a phone call/email will be made at once to notify a parent of the student's need for behavior adjustment. Should additional intervention become necessary for the same misbehavior, a Holy Rosary School discipline report will be filed in the Principal's office and mailed home.

Homework

Your child will have homework each night. This homework will reinforce skills that we are working on in class. New material will not be introduced as homework. Homework should last between 45-90 minutes each night. Excessive chatting and off-task choices during class may add to homework time in the evenings. Assignments will be considered Late if not completed and turned in by the time they are collected in class. **Late assignments will not receive credit and will be recorded as a zero in the grade book.**

Your child has a student assignment planner. Students are guided through the process of filling out their planner at the end of each day and are expected to follow the model. I document daily the assignments given for homework. These assignments are also posted to the school's website nightly. Please reinforce this challenging organizational skill by reviewing your child's planner regularly and checking for work completion.

Uniforms

Your child must have a uniform sweater or vest available at school each day. Please be sure vests and sweaters are clearly labeled. A sweater must be worn for all Masses and school assemblies.

Absences and Tardies

Please send a note or call the office if your student will be absent, is to go home with someone else, or if there are any restrictions in the child's activity. If you will be gone for several days for family reasons, your child's work will be saved for when you return. The student will be given the same number of days they were absent in order to complete the missing assignments.

The tardy bell rings at 8:20 AM. Any student arriving in the classroom after the tardy bell must check in first at the office and have a note indicating the reason for being late. Tardies will be considered "Excused" for such things as dental/doctor/orthodontist appointments, illness, travel, and certain extenuating circumstances. If a student acquires three unexcused tardies in a trimester, it will reduce the Christian Social Qualities mark for "Demonstrates Responsible Behavior" from a 3 to a 2 on the report card. Six unexcused tardies reduces the mark to a 1 on the report card. A student's Christian Social Qualities must earn all 2s and 3s for a student to be eligible for Honor Roll. Please refer to the Holy Rosary Family Handbook for a full description of how one earns Honor Roll distinction.

Report Cards

Holy Rosary is on a trimester schedule. *Student progress should be regularly reviewed by parents and students by logging into Power School*

throughout the term. Report cards will be passed out approximately one week after the trimester ends. The final letter grade in each class is comprised of a weighted average of all their Homework Assignments (40%), Tests/Projects (40%), and Effort/Participation (20%). In Literature, the grade weights are slightly different: Accelerated Reading Performance (25%), Homework (40%), Effort/Participation (10%), and Tests/Projects (25%). I stress to the students that less than satisfactory letter grades on any particular assignment, test, or report card subject indicate that the skills for that item have not yet been mastered and that further development and practice will be necessary. It does NOT mean that he/she isn't smart, nor is a lower letter grade a reflection of my feelings about him/her. It simply means that it is an area we'll need to work on to help grades improve.

Students may REFINE any assignments or test scores below passing (67%) to raise the overall subject grade and to demonstrate mastery of the content. REFINING means a student may redo or make corrections to their errors in order to clearly state the essential concepts of the lesson in their own words, either in written or oral form, to indicate a true understanding of the material. All refined work must be submitted at least three (3) days before any reporting period in order to allow ample time for adjustments to be made to the grade book. Please encourage your child to do their best job in everything, and to take the RESPONSIBILITY to make better that which can be improved. Please do not place onto the children undue stress about their performance. Help them view lower scores as an invitation to improve rather than a mark of failure. Let's work together to support the learning needs your child may have to help him/her be successful and to celebrate their achievements.

As junior high students, their grades will be tabulated each term to see if they qualify for Honor Roll. Honor Roll criterion is based both on grade point average and Christian Social Qualities. Please refer to the Holy Rosary Family Handbook for a full description of how one earns Honor Roll distinction.

Parent-Teacher conferences will be in October and we will review individual progress at that time. If for any reason you feel a conference is needed before that time, please email, send a note, or call the school and I will be happy to schedule one for you.

Birthdays

Each student will receive a special gift from the teacher and enjoy certain privileges on their birthday. Summer birthdays will be celebrated on the half birthday. Any treats you desire to send in will be served only at lunch time in the cafeteria. Please be mindful of those with food allergies, like dairy and any nuts.

Thank you very much for being such a warm and supportive parent community. I am truly blessed to have the opportunity to share my gifts with the children at Holy Rosary School. It will be a fabulous sixth grade year!

God Bless,
Malia Santucci
malias@holyrosaryedmonds.org

Subjects your sixth grader will be exploring are:

Religion

Our Religion text is *God's Merciful Love: The Old Testament* by Ignatius Press, which explores the Bible stories of the Old Testament and familiarizes students with the different forms of literature found within. We will be prayerfully considering how to live a more virtuous life through our Virtue Prayer Sessions lead by students each week. Parents are welcome to attend our refreshing reflections. Supporting our focus on virtues is our *Steps to Respect* curriculum which teaches how to make and keep friends, resolve conflicts peacefully, and diminish bullying behavior. In addition to our participation in school Masses, we will enrich our faith by learning the prayers of the Rosary as well as by writing letters of support to the seminarians.

Social Studies

I am excited to teach the sixth grade about ancient cultures of the world using our Macmillan/McGraw-Hill text *World: Adventures in Time and Place*. We will explore pre-historic times, and see what cultural developments took place in ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Greece, Rome, and other intriguing peoples that lived long ago.

Literature

The class will analyze a variety of literary forms including fiction, non-fiction, essays, and poetry. Students will expand their reading skills by investigating literary elements and participating in small discussion groups. Aside from lots of silent reading opportunities, we will also develop our vocabulary through *Wordly Wise*. Keeping a reading log of their personal reading choices and taking *Accelerated Reader* quizzes will help students monitor their reading comprehension.

The students will have one required **book report** each trimester, to be presented orally in front of the class during the final week of the term (exact dates yet to be determined). The 1st trimester selection must be an award winning book/author of the student's choice (Newberry awards, Children's Booklist awards, ALA, etc.). The 2nd trimester book must be historical fiction, and the 3rd trimester is either biography or autobiography. Students will receive directions for a book report project which we will complete at school. They will each prepare a 3-4 minute oral presentation to accompany their really cool visual aid.

Composition

We will utilize the *Step Up to Writing* program to build school-wide consistency in writing instruction. A portfolio containing each piece the student composes will be kept in order to provide opportunities for year-end review. Integral to writing instruction, we'll be reinforcing the writing process and *English Grammar* exercises.

Math

Mr. Brian Flanagan is excited to have the Sixth grade for Math. They have hit the ground running already studying statistics. They will also be covering pre-algebra, patterns and number theory, integers, measurement, and a variety of other topics. Please share any questions or concerns about your child's Math performance directly with Mr. Flanagan.

Science

We are happy to have Mr. Paul Kester as our Science instructor. He will teach the students how to conduct investigations using the Scientific Method, and then apply that approach to the topics of cell structure, heredity, and exploration of the galaxy. He is glad to be able to encourage their natural curiosity!

Computers

With the helpful instruction of our technology expert, Mrs. Walde, each sixth grader will be able to independently fine tune the skills taught in the previous levels of computer instruction. Some Microsoft Office applications are used to complete class projects in other content areas. I will lead these lessons and align the assignments with our Social Studies, Reading, Writing, and Religion projects. Also, students will incorporate ongoing keyboarding practice using *Nimblefingers.com* to learn proper finger placement and improve speed and accuracy.

Spanish

Hola! Our Spanish instructor is Mrs. Scott and we are very glad to have her build upon last year's instruction of the Spanish language! Her focus this year will be on developing conversational basics, and expanding their vocabulary. She will also lead some cultural studies of ancient Mesoamerican peoples, like the mighty Aztecs, the fascinating Mayans, and the amazing Incas. Muy Bien!

All curriculum materials are available for you to peruse. If you have any questions about the content, please ask Mrs. Santucci.