

# **Welcome to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Knox Gifted Academy**



**2013 - 2014**

**Mrs. Dailey's & Mrs. Iyer's Room B6**

**Mrs. Moreno's Room B5**

**Mr. Brown's Room B4**

# Information for 6th Grade KGA Classes

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## Philosophy

Your student will be part of the sixth grade team. Mrs. Dailey, Mrs. Iyer, Mrs. Moreno and Mr. Brown will be working collaboratively all year in order to meet the needs of all sixth grade students. Therefore, your student will be rotating between three classrooms in order to receive the highest quality of learning and teaching. The four of us strive to communicate with you and your child in a timely manner about his or her academic and social progress. Our classroom community is one of thinkers, questioners, and researchers who are interested in many aspects of our local and global communities. We hope that with your help, we will all be partners in your child's learning.

## Purpose

Thank you for choosing to place your child at Knox Gifted Academy. Chandler Unified School District realizes that families now have many more choices for their children's education. We have created Knox Gifted Academy (KGA) to meet and exceed the needs of your academically gifted learner. By utilizing STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) the purpose of KGA is to provide a rigorous curriculum where students are expected to be challenged, experience success, learn to effectively struggle with interesting and accelerated topics across the curriculum, and develop the communication skills to learn and work in a constantly changing world. Finally, students will be expected to develop and share creative strategies for solving real-world problems.

## Goals

In math and language arts, students are expected to master the skills and concepts of at least one grade higher than their current grade. In science and social studies students are expected to master the skills and concepts at their grade level. Students will explore all concepts to a greater depth and complexity and make connections across content areas to help develop a better understanding. They will also develop creative and critical thinking skills to help them become more effective problem solvers. Students are also expected to share their learning with the larger community (peers, teachers, families). And by doing all of this, the student is expected to be a lifelong learner, constantly searching for new knowledge.

## Assignments/Homework

Students will be expected to complete a variety of assignments, tests, classroom activities, and projects. Detailed instructions, rubrics, and/or checklists will accompany all assignments. Students will have time in class and at home to complete their work. Some assignments will be completed independently, while others might be done with a partner or with a team of learners.

During the year, students will be expected to work on extended projects. Unless otherwise noted, these projects must be completed by the students and may require some work time outside of the classroom. You will be given ample time to plan for these projects.

Students are expected to complete meaningful homework assignments. The purpose of homework is to provide extra practice from the day's lessons, as well as to extend the student's thinking. It is the CUSD policy that students work approximately 10 minutes per grade level. Therefore a 6<sup>th</sup> grader should be working for approximately 60 – 70 minutes each night. Students are expected to read at home, 20 minutes nightly.

Students may lose points or privileges for each day an assignment is late. If students do not complete homework assignments, they are expected to complete the work during their own time.

Every Wednesday students will bring home their Take Home Folder. In this folder you can expect to see all graded work, or work that needs revision. It will also include information from school, permission slips, and notices of missing work.

## Grading

Student achievement will be based on tests, assignments, projects, and homework. Rubrics, scoresheets, or checklists will be used to evaluate a student's progress. Often, students will self-assess, be allowed to make necessary revisions, and have their work re-evaluated. Students are encouraged to re-do work that is a 75% or below.

If students are working with a partner or a small team, each student will be evaluated on his or her work and not on the work of the team.

## Curriculum

### 1st Quarter

#### Science

- Energy – Transfers of Energy, Mechanical, Electrical, Thermal
- Project NEED

#### Technology

- GAFE – Google Apps for Education
- CNN Student News

#### Engineering

- Engineering is Elementary

#### Language Arts & Social Studies

- Vocabulary – understanding roots and affixes to determine meanings of scientific terms
- Comprehension – reading real world text in order to enhance strategies and predictions
- Conventions – using appropriate grammar and punctuation
- Literature Units: The Phantom Tollbooth, The Golden Goblet, Through the Looking Glass
- Geography – mapping skills and current events pertaining to living things
- Stone Age, Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt

#### Mathematics

- Integer Operations
- Comparing & Ordering Integers, Absolute Value
- Fractions & Decimals

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

## 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

### Communication

There are many ways of communicating with us.

Mrs. April Dailey	Mrs. Deepa Iyer
School email <a href="mailto:dailey.april@cusd80.com">dailey.april@cusd80.com</a>	School email <a href="mailto:iyer.deepa@cusd80.com">iyer.deepa@cusd80.com</a>
Room B-6	Room B-6
School phone (480) 812-6142 (calls go directly to voice mail)	School phone (480) 812-6142 (calls go directly to voice mail)
School Website <a href="http://www.cusd80.com/Page/18472">http://www.cusd80.com/Page/18472</a>	School Website <a href="http://www.myhandlerschools.org//Domain/1309">http://www.myhandlerschools.org//Domain/1309</a>

Mrs. Tamsen Moreno	Mr. Scott Brown
School email <a href="mailto:galligan.tamsen@cusd80.com">galligan.tamsen@cusd80.com</a>	School email <a href="mailto:brown.scott@cusd80.com">brown.scott@cusd80.com</a>
Room B-5	Room B-4
School phone (480) 812-6141 (calls go directly to voice mail)	School phone (480) 812-6140 (calls go directly to voice mail)
School Website <a href="http://www.myhandlerschools.org//Domain/5541">http://www.myhandlerschools.org//Domain/5541</a>	School Website <a href="http://www.myhandlerschools.org//Domain/5540">http://www.myhandlerschools.org//Domain/5540</a>

**\*\*Please utilize the school websites.** The sixth grade teachers will update their school websites weekly with homework information and current newsletters.

Knox Elementary School – 700 W. Orchid Ln., Chandler, AZ 85225

Front Office: (480)812-6100

Attendance Clerk: Sue Bowers, (480)812-6103

Fax: (480)812-6120