

Welcome to 6th Grade!

Rising Sixth Grade Parent Information Night

May 13, 2024

Introductions

Pond Road Middle School Building Administration:

Mr. Paul Gizzo, Principal

Ms. Tawrye Mason, Assistant Principal

Mr. Curtis Wyers, Assistant Principal

Pond Road Middle School Counseling Department:

Ms. Taylor Bialkowski, School Counselor

Ms. Stephanie Maguire, School Counselor (replacing Ms. Kenworthy)

Mr. Jake Phillips, School Counselor

Ms. Lainie Potter, School Counselor

Ms. Laurie Rotondo, Director K-12 Counseling Services & Wellness

Agenda

- 6th Grade Classrooms
- Counseling Department Overview
- Differences between 5th grade and 6th grade at PRMS
- Adolescent Development
- 6th Grade Curriculum Overview
- Class Schedule
- Attendance
- Positive Behavior Support in School
- Question and Answer

6th Grade Classroom Location

- Sixth Grade Classrooms will be located in the middle of the PRMS
- 5th to 6th Grade Student Transition Workshops:

May 28th - May 31st

8th Grade Student Leaders will assist our 5th grade students

PRMS Counseling Department

We are here to help!

Social- Emotional, Career/College Readiness, Academic

Classroom Lessons, Small Groups, Individual

Student Toolkits



6th Grade Looks a Lot Different Than 5th...

- Switching Classes for Core Subjects
- Using a Locker
- Letter Grades - Marking Periods vs. Trimesters
- Genesis
- Agendas
- Clubs/ Sports

Middle school skills

Accountability

Independence

Self-Advocacy

Time Management

Perseverance

Resilience

Courage



Tips & Tricks

Lockers

Opening a locker takes practice and patience. Get a combination lock and practice over the summer!

Color Code

Keep class materials easily organized by using one color per class. For example: have a **BLUE** Science notebook and a **BLUE** Science binder.

Make a Routine

Create a schedule for your home and stick to it! For example, coming home from school, eating a snack, doing homework at the table, packing backpack (s) the night before, getting to bed by a certain time, etc.

Ask for Help

Our students aren't supposed to know everything yet. Teachers are here to help- just ask!

Take a Breath

We will all face new challenges everyday. The best thing we can all do is take a deep breath, relax, and try our best!

Being Yourself

There is a lot of change in Middle School and it's easy to get lost. Stay true to yourself and let your values guide your choices and actions!

Adolescent Development

Significant Developmental Changes:

- There are rapid physical growth and hormonal changes
- Most dynamic brain development between 6th - 8th grade

(this is the greatest period of brain changes second only to infancy - two years of age)

Age- Appropriate Behavior:

- Increasing influence of peer relationships
- Tend to provide less information to us as parents; believe they don't need help
- This age group is becoming more self aware. They question: Who am I? What can I become? There are feelings of vulnerability and a strong desire to be accepted

Parental Tips

Best ways to support your child through this transition:

- Keep a positive attitude about Middle School
- Encourage your child to get involved
- When speaking with your child, normalize their feelings (Remind them that many of their peers will be experiencing similar concerns)
- Acknowledge and validate their feelings, this can help diffuse big emotions
- Assist in silencing their inner critic. (Assist them in changing their mindset. Mistakes are a chance to learn)
- Keep the lines of communication open- active listening
- Encourage self advocacy: we all need help at some point in our lives
- Maintain family traditions, especially family dinners (These rituals add to their sense of belonging and security)
- Encourage exercise, sleep, healthy food choices, model relaxation through mindfulness, deep breathing and yoga

Strong support from parents and educators will help students develop the confidence they need to make healthy choices. We all do better together.

6th Grade Curriculum Overview

Math 6 is an on-grade level Sixth Grade Mathematics course that utilizes the Ready Math Curriculum and is aligned to the 6th grade NJ Student Learning Standards. Problem solving and critical thinking skills will be emphasized throughout the course. The course content will include, but is not limited to:

- Decimals and Properties of Operations
- Number Theory
- Expressions and Equations
- Fractions
- Ratios, Percents, and Proportions
- Integers and Rational Numbers
- Coordinate Plane
- Geometry and Measurement
- Data and Graphs
- Statistics

6th Grade Curriculum Overview

Pre Algebra is a 6th and 7th grade mathematics course that utilizes the enVision Mathematics Curriculum and is aligned to the 7th and 8th grade NJ Student Learning Standards. Problem solving and critical thinking skills will be emphasized throughout the course. The course content will include, but is not limited to:

- Rational Number Operations
- Real Numbers
- Proportional Relationships (equations, graphing, percents)
- Equivalent Expressions
- Solve Problems Using Equations and Inequalities
- Analyze and Solve Linear Equations
- Pythagorean Theorem
- Sampling to Draw Inferences About Populations
- Probability
- Geometry

6th Grade Curriculum Overview

Social Studies:

Have you ever wondered why the Egyptians mummified their dead? How writing systems developed around the globe? Why was farming such an important advancement for humans? Or what caused the Harappan civilization to disappear from the Indus River Valley?

6th grade Social Studies is an introduction to ancient civilizations, emphasizing student understanding that in order to succeed as a civilization, certain elements must be present. Students are investigators of the past, exploring artifacts, people, and events to develop their skills as historians in their thinking and writing. Students will be challenged to evaluate key aspects of civilizations, drawing conclusions about the successes and failures of empires, all while making meaningful connections to the issues that face people today.

6th Grade Curriculum Overview

ELA:

In 6th grade ELA, students will work to develop crucial life skills in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Our students will explore many genres of text, such as novels, short stories, poetry, and nonfiction through a combination of class novels, book clubs, and choice independent reading. They will also practice the writing process through various genres of writing, including narratives, informational essays, persuasive pieces, free writes, and poetry. Finally, sixth graders will acquire new grammar skills as well as learn vocabulary words and patterns through our “Weekly Words” program. In addition to content, sixth graders will grow their executive functioning skills as they transition from an elementary to a middle school model.

6th Grade Curriculum Overview

Science:

Sixth grade science is geared toward enhancing students' knowledge about all the wonders of the world. We will be using scientific practices to gather evidence that will help us discover how science contributes and explains phenomena of the world and from our everyday lives! Science topics in chemistry, physics, earth science and life science are covered during the school year. We emphasize building skills in being a self-directed and accountable learner, gathering evidence and using resources to solve problems, and how to effectively collaborate and communicate solutions.

When focusing on progress over perfection, mistakes are expected and encouraged. Learning from those mistakes and how to use different strategies to improve is a key component of the scientific process and the transition to 6th grade.

Period	Time	A	B
Period 1	8am - 8:42am	PE 6	PE 6
Period 2	8:45am - 9:27am	Art/Technology	Spanish/Music
Advisory	9:30am - 9:45am	Advisory 6	Advisory
Period 3	9:48am - 10:30am	ELA 6	ELA 6
Period 4	10:33am - 11:15am	ELA 6	ELA 6
Lunch 1	11:18am - 11:39am	Study Hall	Study Hall
Lunch 1-2	11:39am - 12:00pm	Lunch	Lunch
Period 6	12:03pm - 12:45pm	Math 6	Math 6
Period 7	12:48pm - 1:30pm	Math 6	Math 6
Period 8	1:33pm - 2:15pm	Social Studies	Science
Period 9	2:18pm - 3:00pm	Social Studies	Science

Attendance

Integral factor for attaining success in school!

School starts at 8:00am

Doors open at 7:35

Drop off/dismissal reminders

10 unexcused days in a row- student must be removed from roll

Medical notes, communication , Genesis input

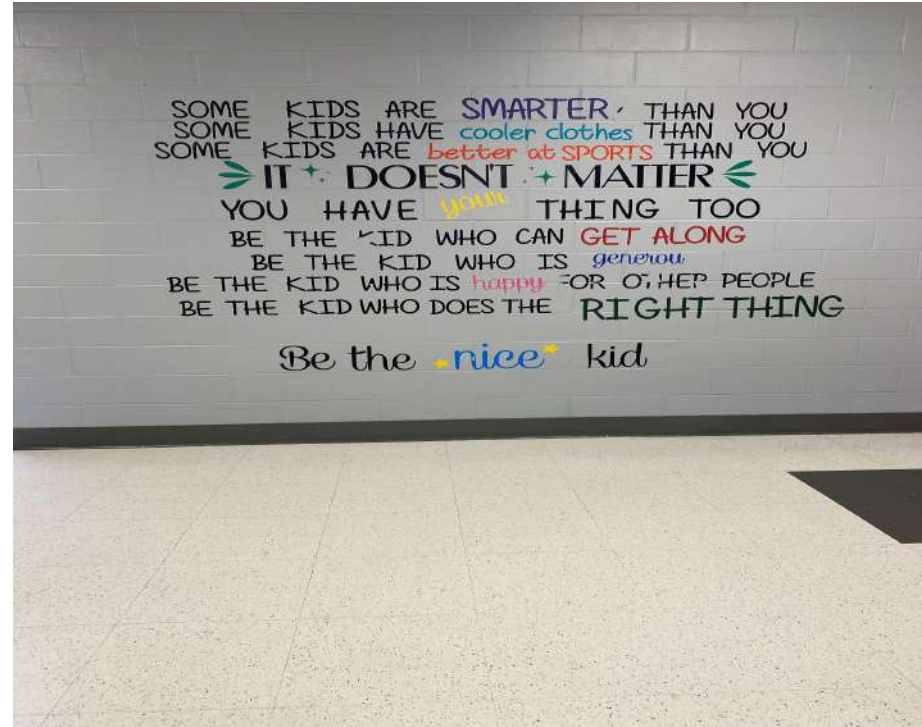
Consequences given if attendance issues arise

Attendance Hearing with administration, attendance team, parent, student if unexcused absences accrue

Our Students Are F.A.I.R.!

Positive Behavior Support in School:

- Flexible
- Accountable
- Inclusive
- Responsible



Question and Answer Session

Thank you!

We look forward to seeing you in September!