Dear Sixth Grade Families,

Let me start by saying, welcome to sixth grade. If this is your first experience with a student in middle school it is going to be an interesting year, and your 6th grade teachers are here to support you and your student every step of the way. If you have done this before and survived, here we go again!!

As the summer comes quickly to a close and it is time to prepare for the year ahead, I wanted to share with you some information that will help make all the changes as smooth as possible. This letter will help you in picking out supplies for the year and talk to you about bit about the student's responsibility for their own education.

6th Grade Supply List:

The deals are already starting at local stores and you may not know what you child needs for the new departmentalized classes they have to look forward too. We as sixth grade teachers would like to let you know of items that will help you child learn and succeed this year. We want you to be able to find the cheapest deals without buying things that are unnecessary. The following items are recommended for your student's fair share supply donation.

- Sturdy backpack
- 9 Spiral - bound, College ruled, single-subject (70 page) notebooks. These notebook should be separate single subject notebooks; not one notebook with multiple sections. The notebooks with plastic covers last longer, but are not required.
- Pencils & Pens
- Liquid white glue
- Colored markers, pencils or crayons
- Highlighters
- Scissors
- College lined binder paper
- 3 inch sticky notes
- Ruler/compass/protractor
- Pencil box or pouch

If you need help contributing these items to your student's fair share supply donation, please notify the principal, assistant principal or your student's teachers.

Student Responsibility:

One of the values that we try to help students achieve is sixth grade is being responsible for their own education, learning, and grades. We cannot do this successfully without the help of our students' families.

Teachers hold students accountable for their education by expecting the best out of every student. We make our expectations of responsibility very clear at the start of the year, and give students every tool they will need be successful and responsible. We coach and guide them throughout the year. We set goals and talk about the steps students need to take to get there. There are rewards for students who show responsibility and consequences when students fail to show responsibility. In the end students earn their grades; grades are not given to students.

This idea of responsibility goal setting can be done at home as well, and can start before school even starts. Start having conversations with your students about what their educational, organizational, or responsibility goals will be this year.

Some examples of Organizational goals would be: no lost papers, neat backpack, or showing you their planner every day.
Some examples of educational goals would be: maintaining or raising grades, no missing homework assignments, certain grades earned on a test.
Some responsibility goals would be: starting homework time on their own, sitting down with you to ask for help planning a project or studying for a test, showing you completed homework assignments every night.

Make these goals small and reachable at first. When a goal is met, celebrate with your student and reward them; then sit down and decide on the next goal. Some goals will be met quickly other might be longer term goals. Have 2-5 goals for your students at a time.

These conversations with your students are so important to their success in middle school. Start having a conversation about responsible actions of a self reliant student **now**, before school starts. Decide **together** what the rewards and consequences will be for their behaviors and choices they make. Be consistent with both rewards and consequences. Students will not respond to an inconsistent system.

Together we can make this school year a success!

- Sincerely
The Sixth Grade Team