

Dear Sixth Grade Parents and Students:

I hope that this letter finds everyone ready for a great new school year. My name is Mrs. Riordan, and I am the 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading and English and 7<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher. I feel very blessed to be teaching at St. Mark. It is my belief that through strong dedication and communication this will be a great year for all of us. The following information is my classroom routine and policies. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me at the school or email me at [riordan@stmarkwestpark.com](mailto:riordan@stmarkwestpark.com). You will also find weekly updates including homework and test announcements on Gradelock. I look forward to working with you this year to ensure the highest level of achievement for all students!

### **Mrs. Riordan's Classroom Routine and Policies**

#### **Expectations:**

1. Every student will come to class daily with all needed materials including: binders, notebooks, textbooks, novels, assignments, pens, pencils, and markers.
2. Every student will show respect for themselves, each other, and their surroundings.
3. Students will seek extra help and ask questions when they are having difficulty.
4. Students will complete all assignments on time and come to class ready to learn.
5. If a student is absent, it is their responsibility to seek help for lessons and assignments missed.

#### **English Grade 6**

English classes this year will consist of a combination of writing, grammar, speaking, listening, and vocabulary. Each class will begin with students completing the Daily Edit. Students will come into class, open their binders to the Daily Edit section, copy the given sentence as its written on the active board, and then correct the sentence using proofreading marks and a red pen. We will also be using Simple Solutions Grammar this year. Students will be given daily practice in this book and we will have a quiz on what we have learned at the end of most weeks. This year we will be doing a variety of writing, including persuasive writing, expository writing, narratives, and research assignments. We will also practice giving speeches and listening to others. Rubrics will be given ahead of time for large assignments so students will know exactly what they are being graded on each time. The students will then turn the rubrics in with their final assignments to be used for grading. Grammar will be integrated into lessons, and tests will be given for different topics. Starting in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, the students will no longer receive a spelling grade. This grade will be included in the English grade. We will be using the *Vocabulary Workshop* workbook. The book does a great job of introducing new vocabulary and giving meaningful exercises to help master the meaning of each word. We will do one unit every two weeks. Our usual routine will involve introducing a unit on Monday and turning in the first half of the unit that Friday. We will then turn in the rest of the unit the next Thursday and take a quiz the following day. Due dates will be posted on grade lock. Students are expected to bring the workbook to class at all times in order to ask questions and work on as time allows. Tests will be two parts: spelling and vocabulary. The website for our book offers many review activities and games to help study. I encourage you to register on this site and use it to prepare for tests.

#### **Reading Grade 6**

Reading is a never-ending activity that can be enjoyed by all. It informs us, teaches us, relaxes us, and strengthens us. One of my main goals this year is for each student to find what they enjoy reading and work this into something they do in their free time. This year in reading we will be exploring many different genres of literature through novels, our textbook, and informational reading. Book reports will be assigned each quarter and must be completed by the due date. Students will also be required to share one book each quarter with the class to add to our "Looking for a Good Book?" bulletin board. The student will give a 3- 5 minute description of the book and tell why they liked it to the class. This can be an informal presentation; I just want them to share the joy of reading with each other. They are to include the requirements on a short rubric that I will give them in class. They will also fill out a die-cut to add to our board with the book's title, author, and genre. This is a great place to go when a student is having a difficult time finding a book to read. Students are expected to always have something to read as time allows in class. This can be anything they enjoy: novels, magazines, or information materials. The goal here is to find what you like to read and ENJOY it!

## Daily routine

1. Students are to enter the classroom quietly, open their notebooks, and begin the assignment on the active board. In reading class, students should review the vocabulary workshop book while waiting for class to begin.
2. All questions regarding make-up work must wait till the end of class, before school, or during a work period.
3. Students must raise their hand to speak: yelling out is not allowed.
4. During work times all students are to be working, If they finish with their assignment, they are to read or work on another assignment.
5. Group work is common in this class; those who choose not to participate will be completing the assignment on their own.
6. Students are expected to monitor their own grades on Grade lock and see me with questions and/or concerns. Waiting until the report card comes out will be too late! This is a great way to make sure you are not missing any assignments. I will update Grade lock at least once a week.

## Late Assignment/Homework Policy

Any work not in class at the time it is due is considered late! Nightly homework assignments are checked at random and are worth four points. Nightly homework may be turned in later or the next day for half credit; no credit will be given after this time. **Any larger assignment that is not in class on the day it is due will be dropped five points per day late. This includes essays, book reports, spelling units, and projects.**

I look forward to a wonderful year with all of you! God Bless!

Mrs. Riordan