

Dear Sixth Grade Parents,

Thank you for coming to our open house. I am providing some general information about sixth grade. Mrs. Wurth and I sent a letter home last week. I am enclosing a copy in your folder in case you did not see it. The rest of this letter briefly describes the classes that I teach to your children, highlighting a few important points.

Sixth Grade Reading

We have started out the year using McGraw- Hill Reading Series. In addition to the regular textbook, we will be reading two novels this year. We will read *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* as well as *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. These novels will become our textbooks. The students will be expected to keep up with the reading assignments and be involved in the class discussions. An objective/short answer test will be given at the end of each novel.

The students are also required to complete two book reports each quarter. I have enclosed the information that was given to them earlier last week. This set of handouts is for you to keep at home so you will be aware of when their assignments are due.

Sixth Grade Religion

We will study the Old Testament in great detail and will begin with the book of Genesis studying the stories of creation, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses. The students will learn about the Judges, the Kings, and the Prophets. We will learn how people and events that took place thousands of years ago helped to form the basis for our religion. We will be using the bible quite a bit this year both in and out of school. If you do not have a bible at home, you might want to purchase one.

Father Merdian as well as Father John. will be teaching in our classroom throughout the year.

Sixth Grade Vocabulary

The vocabulary program is a very challenging program that asks the students to really think and use their skills. The students learn how to improve their spelling skills, as well as understanding how to use them correctly. We have started out very slowly and are progressing at a comfortable pace. Please feel free to help your child with the lessons in the book. This is especially important at the beginning of the year. We will grade the workbook, take a spelling test from the words in that unit, and there will be a book test. The students were given a practice test this week. When we complete a review unit, an open-book, take-home test will be sent home. You may help your child with this test. Two great websites for practice are www.vocabtest.com and www.sadlier-oxford.com vocabulary words

This is the first year in which I will be incorporating a Promethean Board in our curriculum. I am very excited for the many outside resources that I will now have the opportunity to “bring to my students” in our classroom.

I hope that this brief explanation of the sixth grade program will help you to see what we are trying to accomplish this year. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at school or email me at cgumbel@stmatt.net. I will return your call or email as soon as possible.

I am anticipating a great year with your children!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cindy Gumbel