J. E. Cosgriff Memorial Catholic School

6th Grade Disclosure Statement

Mrs. Marsha Newman

[mnewman@cosgriff.org](mailto:mnewman@cosgriff.org)

Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome to sixth grade. I am excited to enter my 9th year of teaching at J. E. Cosgriff and my fifth year as the 6th grade teacher. Previously, I taught 5th and 6th grade in Murray Public Schools. I graduated from Kansas State University where I taught high school for 7 years, then ventured to New Mexico for 10 years working in the private sector, before landing in Utah. I have an elementary education license with endorsements in ESL and Mathematics K-8.

My goals for this year are to empower students to take responsibility for their learning and to provide a positive learning environment within the classroom, where students feel safe and willing to step out of their comfort zone to experience new situations. I have high expectations for myself as well as my students and look for them to put forth their best efforts while in the classroom. Students, once you have reviewed the disclosure with your parents, please sign the attached form, detach it and return to me. Please keep the cover letter for future reference.

Students: “Succeeding in life is as simple as being a good student. All you have to do is pay attention, work hard and give it your best shot.” That is all I ask of you. Parents: Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to aid in your child’s learning.

**Classroom Conduct Expectations**

* **Respectful:** Respect other’s property, ideas, opinions, and right to learn. Raise your hand to speak, remain seated during instruction times, and conduct yourselves in an appropriate manner at all times.
* **Be Honest:** Always show me that I can trust you by displaying true integrity. Be honest with yourself and your teachers by completing your own work, acknowledging when you need help, and asking for it.
* **Be Prepared:** You are responsible to be on time and have all writing utensils, textbooks, and other materials at your desk, ready to learn when class begins.

**Severe Clause:** Any behavior that threatens bodily harm, damage to property, or stops the class from learning will result in an immediate conference with the principal and a severe infraction referral.

**6th Grade Curriculum**

**Language Arts- English, Writing, Literature, Spelling**

In 6th Grade, students will be assigned a variety of reading materials to provide adequate exposure to a range of texts and tasks, furthering the transition from learning to read to constructing meaning of the text. Sixth grade allows for development of writing skills and understanding of language use, spelling, and grammar to increase the sophistication of student writing in a variety of genres. The Utah State Core standards are followed for the Language Arts curriculum.

**Mathematics**

Instructional time focuses on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division;

(2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of numbers to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking. Our 6th grade Math class is differentiated enabling students to work more closely to their abilities, learning styles, and pacing. Both classes follow the same Utah State Core standards.

**Science**

The Science curriculum focuses on: Matter from molecules to organisms, Heredity and traits, Earth's place in the Universe, and Changes on Earth's Surface. Concepts are explored through hands-on activities, experimentation and simulations. Students will demonstrate learning by keeping an interactive/lab notebook and completion of quizzes and tests.

**Social Studies/History**

The focus this year is World History. We will move from the beginning of civilization, through the Greek and Roman Empires, the Renaissance, the French Revolution, and immigration.

**Classroom Performance Expectations**

**A’S ARE NOT GIVEN TO STUDENTS, THEY ARE EARNED BY STUDENTS**. Earning good grades takes effort and work. Students are encouraged to always complete assignments on time, do their best work the first time, seek help if needed, and work towards becoming an independent learner. If students go above and beyond what is expected, they will reap the benefits of their efforts. If a student does not understand a concept, we will work together to increase understanding. A student’s responsibility is being willing to admit a lack of understanding. Ultimately, comprehension and understanding is so much more important than a grade. There is no opportunity for extra credit to raise a grade.

**Assignments and Homework**

QUALITY WORK, reflecting your BEST EFFORT is expected at all times and turned in on time. Papers must be legible, and free of torn edges, wrinkles, tears and/or doodles. Assignments that do not meet these guidelines will be returned to students to be redone and handed in the following day with a late work penalty. Cheating will not be tolerated on any assignment or test and will result in a zero on the assignment and a meeting with parents. Homework is assigned on a daily basis to practice skills being taught in the classroom.

**Late Work**

All work is expected be handed in on time. One late assignment per quarter will be accepted in either English or Literature, one per quarter in either Science or Social Studies, and one per quarter in Mathematics with a 10% reduction in score, until the Friday following the due date. No late work in Spelling will be accepted due to being given a week to complete the assignment. Late homework passes are provided to students on the first day of school. All late work is placed in the late basket with the attached late slip, requiring a parent signature. Emergencies may occur, please talk with me if circumstances arise. All other late work will be a zero score.

**Absent Work**

Students are expected to be in class, and on time each day. However, illnesses, emergencies, and unexpected situations occur resulting in unplanned absences. A study buddy will fill out an absent work form. Upon returning to school and receiving this form, the student has one week from their first day back to complete and turn in all missed assignments. Students are also responsible to obtain any notes taken during their absence. It is the absent student’s responsibility to obtain and verify with teachers all missed work. Students must write “Absent” on the top middle of all absent work when turned in.

**Textbooks**

Students are assigned numbered textbooks for use during the school year. If textbooks are extensively damaged or missing, students will be responsible for the replacement.

**Daily Snacks and Birthday Treats**

Daily snack time is between 2nd and 3rd periods (9:55am). This must be a **healthy** snack and consumable in less than 5 minutes. Students are welcome to bring a healthy snack to celebrate their birthday. Please make sure it is healthy and easy to serve. If napkins are needed, please provide them. Water bottles may be used in the classroom as long as they do not leak.

**Parent/Teacher Communication**

If you have a question or concern, please contact me immediately. If the question is about an assignment, 6th grade is a good time to begin empowering your child to seek help themselves. Prompting your student to speak with me begins the process of empowering them to take responsibility for their learning.

**Quick Reminders**

* Other Classes schedule:
* PE/Art Tuesday and Thursday 12:50-1:30 (Class will be divided into two groups)
* Music Monday 12:50-1:30
* Library Wednesday 12:50-1:30
* Choir Thursday 11:35- 12:20
* Computers Friday 10:20-11:10
* In accordance with the student handbook, socks must be solid blue, black, or white.
* Cell phones may not be used by students in the building for any reason.
* School begins at 8:15. 6th grade students may enter the building at 8:10 through the teacher parking lot door.

Students: “Succeeding in life is as simple as being a good student. All you have to do is pay attention, work hard and give it your best shot.” That is all I ask of you. Parents: Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to aid in your child’s learning.

Sincerely,

Marsha Newman

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**6th Grade Expectations**

1. Be prepared each and every day.

2. Enter the classroom with all materials necessary.

3. Ask when you don’t understand.

4. Put forth your best effort each and every day.

I have read Mrs. Newman’s classroom disclosure and have discussed it with a parent. I understand the late work policy and the consequences of my choices if I do not hand in assignments on time. I agree to follow the classroom expectations and have discussed them with my parent.

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Student signature Date

I have read Mrs. Newman’s 6th grade disclosure and have discussed it with my child. I understand the late work policy and will support my child’s efforts to follow all classroom expectations.

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Parent Signature Date