

Course Description
6th Grade Core
Pine Valley Middle School
2009-2010

Introduction

Welcome to Pine Valley Middle School. I am excited to help your child make a smooth transition from elementary school to middle school. I hold high expectations and goals for this year, but I will make these realistic and achievable. It is very important that we work as a team and the students have a clear understanding of what our expectations are for them.

I will be covering these expectations in class and I ask you to reinforce them at home. Please take the time to review this information with your child. Please turn in the last page with your signature indicating that you have done so. Keep the remaining portion for reference.

Course Outline – 6th grade California Standards and Benchmarks are taught in all curricular areas

I. History

Text: *World History*, McDougal Littell

- Analyze the geographical, political, economic, religious, social structures, and enduring contributions of early civilizations.
- Early civilizations include Mesopotamia, Egypt, Nubia, India, China, Greece, and Rome.
- Students will develop a respect for the dignity of all people and an understanding of different cultures and ways of life.

II. Reading

Texts: *Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes* – Prentice Hall

Literature

Core Literature books may include: *Tuck Everlasting, The Cay, Number the Stars, Dragon's Gate, Boy of the Painted Cave, Ulysses*, or *Where the Red Fern Grows*

- Students will read for *meaning* using appropriate skills and strategies.
- Daily SSR (Sustained Silent Reading)
- Students will read a range of increasingly complex materials for a variety of purposes.
- Comprehension and vocabulary will be reinforced and measured throughout the course of the year.

III. Language Arts

Texts: *Writing and Grammar, Everyday Spelling* – Prentice Hall

- Students will write with a command of English including grammar, mechanics, spelling, and handwriting.
- Students will write for a variety of purposes including persuasive compositions and short stories.
- Listening strategies: auditory and sequence memory, speaker's message and note taking.
- Speaking: students will use oral language to communicate and enhance learning.
- Follow oral directions in the correct sequence, note taking, and asking clarifying questions.
- Will gather and use information from a variety of sources for specific purposes.

Assessment and Grading Policy

All work will be assigned a point value. Rubric Assessment will be used on most projects. Grades are based on the percentage of points earned during a given quarter.

Averaging the two quarter percentages arrives at the semester grade. The grading scale is as follows:

100-94% A	76-74% C
93-90% A-	73-70% C-
89-87% B+	69-67% D+
86-84% B	66-64% D
83-80% B-	63-60% D-
79-77% C+	Below 60% F

- **Grades:** Grades will be posted online about every three weeks at www.schoolloop.com <<http://www.schoolloop.com>> to track your student's progress. Grades should be reviewed at home. Progress reports are sent via email at mid-quarter to students receiving a C- or below. The dates of the report cards are noted in the Parent-Student Handbook. Reviewing corrected, returned work in your student's binder is the best way to get an up-to-date idea of your child's progress.
- **Late Work:** Late work is not accepted. There are **no** extensions on long-term assignments. They are due when they are due.
- **Makeup/Absent Work** (per district policy): Students who miss work because of an excused absence shall be given the opportunity to complete all assignments and tests that can be reasonably provided. As determined by the teacher, the assignments and tests shall be reasonably equivalent to, but not necessarily identical to, the assignments and tests missed during the absence. Students shall receive full credit for work satisfactorily completed within a reasonable period of time.
If a student is absent during the due date of a long-term project, it is expected that the student turn in the project upon returning to class. However, a project can always be turned in before the due date if the absence is due to planned vacation, etc.

Classroom Procedures

- **Respect, Cooperation, and Responsibility** are key components of a great sixth grade year here at Pine Valley Middle School.
- All school and district regulations are to be followed (see parent-student handbook).
- All students are to fill out their Binder Reminder on a daily basis. Review of the Binder Reminder is a good way to stay informed.
- There will be classroom rules and school rules that are to be followed at all times.
- As part of the academic intervention for failing students in Core, Saturday School may be offered once per quarter. Students may be permitted to make up a maximum of 3 assignments excluding projects. Please request this if you feel the need arises.
- Any student who is not in his/her seat when the bell STARTS to ring is considered tardy. All tardies are recorded in the office. A warning will be given for the first tardy. For the 2nd tardy, the student will receive a litter pick-up. For the 3rd tardy, an email shall be sent home and another litter pick-up shall be given. The 4th tardy will result in a referral to the administration.
- I strongly prefer to not give homework over weekends. Depending upon the assignment, classwork that is not finished can be completed at home. *Organization, and time managements are important.* You may also check www.schoolloop.com <<http://www.schoolloop.com>> to get updates on grades.

The sixth grade year is one filled with growth and development, both socially and academically. I am privileged to help facilitate your child's movement towards young adulthood. State and district standards will be taught and learned in a positive, supportive environment. It will be exciting to see your child's progress over the course of the school year. If there are questions or concerns, feel free to email me through Schoolloop or at lwulff@srvusd.net. I can also be reached at 925-479-7743. I'm confident this will be a successful school year!

Regards,

Connie Knudson

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