

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 have been working to make this transition as smooth as possible. Though your child is now in middle school, I am cognizant of the fact that your child is still a child. 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 that 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,*
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 some assignments. Grades are based on the percentage of points earned during a given quarter. Averaging the two quarter grades provides 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 will be posted online through School Loop at least twice per quarter, at the mid-way point and at the end of the quarter. They will be comprehensive and detailed. Grades should be reviewed at home. The dates of the progress reports and 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 is not accepted.** All work must be submitted on its due date. There are **no** extensions on long-term assignments. When absent, it is the *responsibility* of the *student* to obtain missed assignments from the teacher. Students will have three days to submit work after an absence. Work that is not collected and submitted by the student after an absence will become a zero in the grade book.

Classroom Procedures

- **Respect, Cooperation, and Responsibility** are the key components of a great sixth grade year in Ms. White's Core class and 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. Parent signature may be required.
- 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 long-term assignments.
- 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, the parent will be contacted and the student will receive another litter pick-up. The 4th tardy will result in a referral to the administration.
- Homework will be given throughout the week. Unfinished class work must be finished at home. Daily reading outside of school will also be required. In an attempt to keep total homework demand to a maximum of 1 hour and 45 minutes and support district policy, I **may** give up to 45 minutes of homework per evening per core. Remember that Core accounts for **three** classes. There will be long-term reports and projects that should be worked on well in advance of the due date. Pacing, organization, and time management are important. Along with talking to your student and checking the binder reminder, you may also check School Loop to get general information about Core activities and long-term assignments.
- Pine Valley's Academic Integrity Policy is to be followed throughout the student's middle school career.

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 at rwhite@srvusd.net. I'm confident this will be a successful school year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Robin E. White

Voice mail 479-7785

2009-2010 Sixth Grade CORE Supply List

- **Pine Valley Binder Reminder**
- 1 1½” three ring binder
- 1 set of dividers
- 1 set of washable broad tip felt pens
- 1 set of washable narrow tip felt pens
- 1 set of color pencils
- 1-2 glue sticks
- 2 red pens
- 6 black or blue pens
- 3 highlighters
- 1-2 black marker-fine tip
- 1 dozen #2 pencils, sharpened
- binder paper
- 1 box of Kleenex
- small pencil sharpener
- 3X3 inch post-it notes
- White correcting tape

Classroom Donation:

A minimum donation of **\$20.00** per student is requested. These monies will be used to purchase materials for special projects, additional supplies, enrichment, extension, supplementary materials, and classroom rewards. Items such as: specialty art supplies, Bare Books, display boards, and book binding material would be included in this donation amount. Thank you for your support. Cash is certainly acceptable or make checks payable to:

Pine Valley Middle School

We are here to help make the transition to middle school as smooth as possible. By working together, we know this goal can be accomplished. We can be reached by voice mail, by sending a note in with your child, or preferably by **e-mail**, which is the most reliable and efficient method of communication.

Sincerely,
Sixth Grade Core Staff