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Dear 6th Grade Parents and Students,

Welcome to East Middle School. This letter will address many issues of interest. **Please save this letter for future reference throughout the year.**

**Expectations**

We expect regular attendance. We also expect you to have the East Middle School assignment notebook with you at all times. We require daily assignments to be written into this notebook. You are to be in your seat, silent, and ready to go to work when the tardy bell rings. You are also expected to follow the teacher’s directions and have assignments completed on time.

If you have been absent, check with the teacher for any missed assignments. If you are absent one day, you have one day to make up the work; two days absent, you have two days to make up the work, and so on.

We would like you to show your assignment book to your parents every night during the first month so that they can see the progress you are making. We ask that your parents sign your assignment book at least once a week and encourage parents to look at the book each night.

We will provide a positive, learning environment with individual help whenever needed. We will also offer individual and class incentives to promote motivation. Also, any child is able to come to any of us to share his/her concerns.

The EMS staff will be implementing a building-wide classroom management system consistent with the research based program of PBIS. One of the important things we will be doing is re-teaching appropriate behavior, as needed. To be most effective, this re-teaching will be done on student time. This opportunity to relearn will be conducted as soon as possible or before/after school time. It is important to know that each student will receive the appropriate time to eat his/her lunch, and all parents will be notified if alternative transportation is needed.

**Science**

Get ready for an exciting year in science. We will be covering several different units including**: Balance and Interdependence in Nature; Energy and Physics; Universe & Space; Catastrophic Events including weather** **and** **Geology.**  Our science curriculum is a lab-based program, and students will be exploring, questioning, and discovering science.

This year, students will be working in their own lab/workbook. This book will be used to keep track of notes and new concepts that are being presented. Students are allowed to write in this book and should be bringing the workbook home when completing assignments or preparing for quizzes and tests. We are looking forward to a fun and exciting year of discovery in science!

## Math

Our math series, “Math Connect”, is capable of many things. Your student can now access the entire book online. In addition, there are more resources available to help your student understand their math class this year. Some of these capabilities include online tutors, manipulatives, and extra examples to name a few.

# **Social Studies**

In social studies, we will be studying geography, economics, and citizenship through world history in a new book titled Discovering Our Past – A History of the World. Each student will have the ability to use the textbook on-line. Once signed in to their own copy of the book, anything they do such as highlighting will stay for the entire year. This is your child’s book. The new program is very interactive and will be challenging. Each classroom will have a set of actual textbooks and one may be checked out if needed by a student for specific tasks.

# **English**

Instruction in English this year will integrate the six traits of effective writing into the writing process. We will do many types of writing such as personal and narrative writing, persuasive essays, and informative writing/demonstrations.

We will also do mini-lessons from the Write Source book, which will cover grammar, spelling, and other English-related topics.

## Reading

In reading, we will be using the Language of Literature text and Reader’s Handbook resource. We will be learning several new reading strategies and literary elements such as how to develop character, setting, plot, theme, point of view, and voice. We will use novels to reinforce these skills. Several minutes will be spent each day in Sustained Silent Reading (SSR.) It will be necessary for you to have a free reading book with you at all times.

## Incentive Program

The 6th grade students will be following the Sioux City School discipline guidelines. The 6th grade believes that all students have a right to attend a school that is orderly and encourages learning. Through our use of the assignment book and student/team teacher conferences, we have established that we expect that our rules will be followed. If these rules are not followed, the students know the consequences. We emphasize through this program that students know that they are responsible for their own actions.

We expect that students:

* Complete assignments on time.
* Come to class prepared with any needed materials.
* Organize themselves so that they need to go to their locker only during the specified times.
* Talk in class only when permission is given.
* Cover textbooks with book covers.
* Not chew gum or eat candy.
* Record assignments in the required assignment book each day.
* Are on time to class.
* Follow teacher directions.
* All electronics will be turned off and left in the students’ lockers during the day.

If a child chooses to **not** follow these rules, any difficulty will be recorded in the assignment book on the day the problem occurs. The abbreviations for these marks are located on page 11 of your child’s assignment book.

The mark will be made by the class in which the student received it. Other teachers in the building, as well as substitute teachers, will be able to use the marking system so that the discipline is more uniform.

If a child receives less than thirteen marks in a given month, the child will be eligible to participate in the monthly incentive that we will have. (Months may vary as to when marks start and stop due to assignment books being checked once a week during Academic Mentor (AM) time.)

If a student should receive thirteen marks, the child will not be eligible for the incentive and will attend a guided work session.

We also ask that the students get their assignment books signed at least once a week by their parents/guardians. This will aid in communication between home and school.

WARNING: If a student should lose his/her assignment book, there will be a cost for a replacement. There will also be a 5 mark penalty with our marking system.

The East Middle staff feels that it is of the utmost importance that a partnership be established between the home and school so that the students have the best possible learning experience. It is the school’s belief that the assignment book is a very positive tool to bridge communication between school and home. Through the use of our consistent discipline, assignment book, incentive plans, and guided work sessions, we hope to create a productive sixth grade year and therefore, a better transition into seventh grade.

### If students need extra help, it will be provided by contacting individual teachers and arranging a time before or after school. Students must have a note from a teacher to be admitted into the building before school. This note may be obtained from the teacher from whom you need help.

Assignments need to be completed and turned in when they are due. If you are behind in your work, you will be expected to come in early before school, or stay after school from 2:45-3:15 to get caught up on any missing work. We will give your parents 24 hours’ notice, if you need to stay.

If you or your parents have any questions concerning our expectations and your responsibilities, please have them call 274-4030 to leave a message so that we can answer these questions.

Sincerely,

6th Grade Teachers

PLEASE SIGN BELOW, DETACH, AND RETURN TO YOUR CHILD’S HOMEROOM TEACHER

I have read and discussed the 6th grade expectations with my child, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_