



# Welcome Information

I would like to welcome all of you to 6<sup>th</sup> grade Strategies to Apply Reading Skills, also known as S.T.A.R.S. I have put this informational packet together to assist you throughout the year. In this packet, I have included information about various policies. I hope you find it helpful. Please let me know if you have any questions.

## **REACHING THE TEACHER**

I am always available to parents and students. If at any time you have a question or concern, please contact me. The best time for parents to reach me at school is a half hour before or after school. If you are unable to reach me at school, you can always text or leave a voicemail on my classroom Google voice number. E-mail is another great way to communicate with me. You can find a quick link to my email from my St. Johns Middle School Webpage. I check my email daily. You can always send notes as well.

School: 989-227-4303

Student and Parent Google number for texts and voicemail: 989-249-3366

Classroom: 989-227-4360

E-mail: [vannormant@sjredwings.org](mailto:vannormant@sjredwings.org)

## **Suggested Supplies**

Student planner and Homework folder (provided by the school)

3x3 post-it notes

One yellow pocket folder with brads

One yellow spiral notebook or yellow composition notebook

Highlighters

## **FORTY BOOK CHALLENGE**

This year we are asking our students to challenge themselves to read 40 whole books this school year. We expect that students will be reading a book at all times. They will be also be journaling and conferencing with me about their books. There is lots of research on the benefits of copious amounts of reading and student growth and achievement. I would be happy to provide you with this research and you can check some of it out on my website under parent information.

## **STUDENT PLANNERS**

Student planners are used not only to keep your student organized academically, but also as a key means of communication between school and home. I check your student's planner on a regular basis to ensure they have been filling out their planner properly and are sharing this information with you. In their student planners, I can provide you with immediate feedback as to whether or not they are completing their homework, as well as answer your questions about assignments or the day-to-day workings of the class. *In order for this to be successful, we must work together.* **The use of student planners is mandatory for all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and one will be provided to your child.**

## **HOMEWORK FOLDERS**

Homework folders are not mandatory but one will be provided to your child. This is a great way for your student to stay organized. Their homework folder works best if it is always with their student planner and is carried to all classes. It should be brought home every night with their student planner.

## **HOMEWORK**

- Students are expected to read 20 -30 minutes daily.
- The majority of work will be completed in class.

- Students will copy their homework assignments in their Student Planners, and homework will be brought home in a homework folders. Homework will typically be due the next day unless otherwise noted in the planner.
- Setting up a homework schedule at home and a quiet place to work helps students to develop routines and complete assignments.

## **ABSENCES AND ASSIGNED WORK**

When a student is absent, it is their responsibility to ask for any work they may have missed. Students are welcome to ask questions or get clarification from the teacher or a peer. Students will be granted one additional day for each day absent to complete assignments.

## **GRADING SCALE**

A	100 - 93	C	76 - 73
A-	92 - 90	C-	72 - 70
B+	89 - 87	D+	69 - 67
B	86 - 83	D	66 - 63
B-	82 - 80	D-	62 - 60
C+	79 - 77	E	59 - 0

## **LATE WORK**

Late work will be graded according to the following policy: Assignments 1 day late will be lowered 10%. For assignments 2-5 days late the highest they can receive is a score of 60%. Completing the assignment regardless of the score will allow students to use any extra credit points they may have earned throughout the trimester.

## **BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT/CLASSROOM DISCIPLINE**

I hold high standards when it comes to behavior in the classroom. I expect that students treat others with respect, listen to others, follow directions, and take responsibility for their actions. I spend a great deal of time at the beginning of the year teaching and practicing with the children the types of behaviors I expect during the day. I believe that discipline should not be

loud and boisterous, but rather be as slight of an interruption as possible. Therefore the steps that will be employed are as follows:

1. **Official Warning** - this is as simple as telling the child he/she has an official warning. Most inappropriate behaviors stop at this point.
2. **Signing the Responsibility Book** - this book is located in the classroom and students are expected to fill out their name, the date, and what they were doing wrong. This serves many purposes. Children will start to take more responsibility for their behavior, and I have documentation of your child's behavior in the classroom. Each child is given a clean slate at the end of the trimester.
3. **Take a Respect Sheet home** - if inappropriate behavior continues, your child will be required to take a Respect Sheet home. This sheet requires the child to write what they did wrong, what they should have been doing, why they should have made a better choice, and finally a plan for changing their behavior. **This sheet requires a parent's signature and must be returned to school the following day.** If it does not come back, I will make contact with you to ensure that you have received the letter and are aware of the situation.
4. **Behavior Referral to Mr. Kemsley** - if we still cannot get things under control the child will be asked to leave the classroom and will be asked to discuss his/her behavior with Mr. Kemsley.

**\* For extreme behaviors or violations, students may be sent directly to Mr. Kemsley.**

I hope this information has been helpful to you. Please let me know of any questions, comments, or concerns. I am looking forward to a great year!

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Tammy Van Norman