

- **Mrs. Velarde's Academic and Behavior Contract 2023-2024**
(Disclosure Statement)

I am so excited to have a great year with your child! Please review this document carefully and contact me with any questions or concerns. Welcome to the 6th grade team!

Staci Velarde
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School: 801-254-8040

School Web Page:
<http://web.jordan.k12.ut.us/MVista/default.htm>

Google Classroom Code: **csdwlqr**

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE POLICY

Students are expected to arrive on time and be at school each day. We move fast in 6th grade, and if a student is missing for even one day, multiple assignments will be missed. Plan on getting missing work from Google Classroom on the days that are missed. Absent work must be completed within the same amount of days that the student was absent. For example, if a student was absent for 2 days, they have 2 days to make up the work they missed before it will be considered late.

LATE WORK EXPECTATIONS

Learning to use time wisely and meet deadlines is a crucial skill for success in school and for success in life. Students will be expected to complete assignments on time. In-class assignments that are not completed within the given time frame will be sent home as homework and will be due the next school day. Work turned in on-time will qualify for 100% of the grade earned. If an assignment is locked in Google Classroom, that means it is beyond this date, and can no longer be submitted for credit. I do allow students to re-take any test or quiz, provided they arrange a time with me in advance, and they do the re-take within one week of the original assessment.

ACADEMIC/GRADING POLICY



Grades will be determined based on proficiency of grade-level standards for each subject area. Students will have a Data Notebook we will use to assess and track their level of understanding of each of the essential standards.

A *proficiency scale*, in simplest terms, represents a progression of learning goals with levels of difficulty:

Level 4: The student is showing **high proficiency** in that area. The student has an advanced understanding of the standard.

Level 3: The student is showing **proficiency** with 6th grade concepts. Students with a 3 are on grade-level, and consistently meet the standard.

Level 2: The student is **approaching** the standard. The student is working hard, and still needs more time working on that specific concept. These standards will continue to be targeted in small groups or one-on-one instruction.

Level 1: Students who have a 1 or NI in any area are **below proficient**, and do not meet the standard. They need more time and direct instruction to meet the standard.

Only 3-5 assessments will be entered into Skyward to determine the student's final standards-based grade each grading period.

HOMEWORK

I'm not a big fan of homework, and I do my best to limit it but some homework is inevitable. It will sometimes include a few concepts of review that we learn in class to lock those ideas into your minds, and more importantly give you a chance to practice skills. Any skill worth doing requires practice! Homework shouldn't take any more than 45 minutes at the most per night (unless there is a special project due). If it is taking you longer than that, please come and see me to discuss.

INDEPENDENT READING

Independent reading is critical in helping students stay proficient readers. I hope that although this will not impact their grade you help me to encourage your child to read at home at least 20 minutes, 6 days per week.

CELL PHONE USE

Cell phones are not allowed to be used on school property. That means no cell phones at recess or in class. If you bring a phone to school it must remain in your child's backpack. The policy is as shown below:



Parents, if you must contact your student during school hours, please call the school. I know that it is tempting but, **please do not contact them on their cell phones.** This policy applies to all electronic devices, including watches.

CHROMEBOOK AND TECHNOLOGY USE

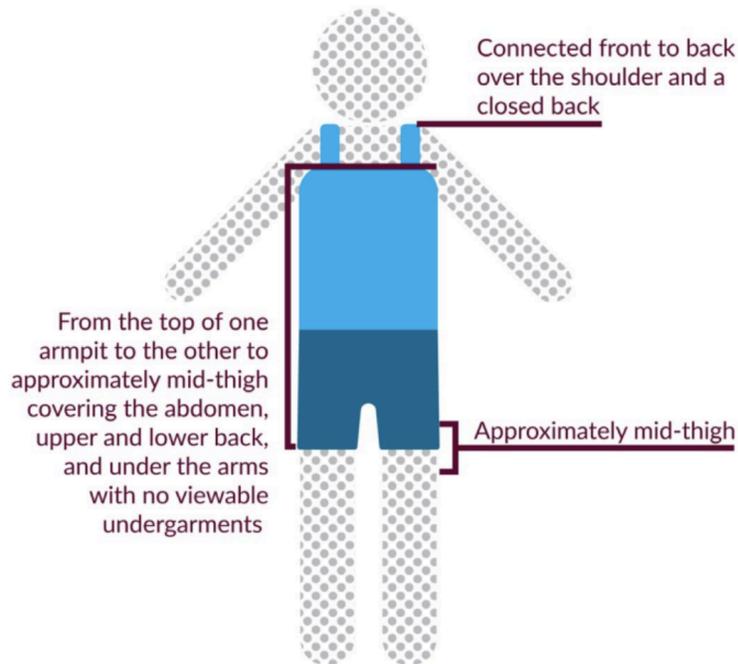
We will be using Chromebooks, Google Classroom, and Canvas in class most days. I will be using Google Classroom and Canvas throughout the year as our home base and these will be the place where most of our assignments are posted, parents and students will have logins and the ability to access work from any computer with internet access. Skyward is a great place to check for missing assignments if you are unsure if one has been turned in. Paper missing assignments will be sent out separately.

DRESS CODE

Please make sure you are dressed appropriately for school. This includes being prepared to be outside in our ever changing weather. Please make sure your clothing, hair, jewelry, etc. is not distracting and is appropriate for an elementary school. If your dress is deemed inappropriate we will have you call a parent for a change of clothes. Refer to Jordan School District Dress Code Policy if you are unsure of what is appropriate.

Student Dress & Appearance Illustration

Front & Back



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Our Social Studies curriculum is Current Events, World Religions, and World History. This is a full and rich curriculum with many exciting topics to cover. Please understand that as current events are a part of our curriculum, I would like students to become familiar with, and stay aware of current events that affect their lives, as that is a state standard. As with all events, both current and historical, I do my best to give students facts and we practice skills of separating fact from opinion. We will be using several different platforms to achieve these goals. CNN10 and AllSides are the two we will use most frequently for current events. My focus is on giving students a strong foundation in determining facts versus opinions, crafting well thought-out arguments to support opinions, and finding credible sources for research information.

Our Language Arts Curriculum is Wit and Wisdom. We will be using four novels with that curriculum and other books to support the standards throughout the course of this year to enhance our learning in both Language Arts and Social Studies.

Other books we MAY read as a class or as small groups

- Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief
- Ella Enchanted
- Phantom Tollbooth
- Fever 1793
- Two Roads
- Flora and Ulysses
- Among The Hidden
- Just Ella
- Number the Stars
- Refugee

6th Grade Technology Acceptable Use Policy

We are fortunate at our school to have computers for each student to use as an educational tool. Technology can be a wonderful tool for learning when used appropriately. Learning valuable skills such as researching, word processing, etc. is a priority in this day and age. Unfortunately, many students are falling into “technology traps” and the use of computers, and other tools becomes more of a distraction. Like any other tool, technology has guidelines for use that ensure safety for the user and longevity for the tool. As a staff, we have set the following guidelines for the proper use of technology. Students who choose not to follow the school’s technology guidelines will lose technology privileges.

Proper Use Guidelines:

- YouTube is only to be accessed with teacher permission.
- Social media is a forum that should be used on your own time, not at school.
- Students can only login to email with their school email address. All other personal email accounts should be accessed at home.
- Students can only access music accounts that have been set up by the teacher. Personal music accounts (Amazon Prime, Apple Music, Spotify, Pandora, etc.) should be accessed at home.
- Access approved sites through Clever. Other sites are not appropriate.
- Stay on task with what the class is doing; don’t wander into areas where we are not working (for example, looking at the computer’s coding, “playing” with Google Translate etc.). The computer should not be used to simply waste time.
- Physical Use--carry computer with two hands from the bottom; foods and liquids need to be kept away from the PCs; please don’t put the laptop on the floor, peel off stickers, or slam the lid of the laptop. Putting heavy objects on top of the computer or picking off the keyboard keys ruins the computer and makes it so future students cannot use it.

Consequences for misuse:

1. Verbal warning.
2. Parent contact and loss of technology for the remainder of the day.
3. Parent contact and students will be assigned a Digital Citizenship course to complete prior to being allowed to use Chromebooks in class.

Exception: In the case of serious infractions such as viewing inappropriate content or participating in cyberbullying, students will forfeit the established consequence procedure and will be referred to the school administration.

If students lose any technology privileges they will be expected to complete all the same class assignments and activities on paper or at home under parent supervision if it cannot be done without technology. If your child breaks or damages a computer while not following the above expectations, the child and parent will be financially responsible to pay for repair or replacement of the computer.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CLASS POLICIES

(Please sign and return this form by Friday, August 23rd)

I have read and agree to follow all of the 6th grade policies in Mrs. Velarde's class. I will be a good citizen of our class and do my best to contribute in every way possible to our entire class' success!

Student Signature

Date

I have read and agree to follow all of the 6th grade policies in Mrs. Velardes's class. I will work as a team with Mrs. Velarde and my child to support and ensure they have a positive learning experience in their last year of elementary school.

Parent Signature

Date