



St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Back-to-School Night Packet 6th Grade

Included in the Back-to-School Night Packet

- Online Contact Information
- Curriculum Outline
- Grading Policy
- Family Life Letter and Permission Slip due by Friday, September 25th.
- Back-to-School Night Acknowledgement Form due by Friday, September 25th.

Online Contact Information

Administration:

Mr. Tim Tolzda, Senior Principal – ttolzda@serraschool.org
Mrs. Carol Reiss, Principal Preschool - Grade 4 – creiss@serraschool.org
Mrs. Julie Radzai, Principal Grades 5 - 8 - jradzai@serraschool.org
Mrs. Ellen Burrola, Assistant Principal - eburrola@serraschool.org
Mrs. Debbie McGee, Assistant Grades 5-8 - dmcgee@serraschool.org

Homeroom Teachers:

6A Mrs. Monica Jung, Language Arts - mjung@serraschool.org
6B Mrs. Jessica Beckner, Math / Science - jbeckner@serraschool.org
6C Miss Rebecca Hanna, Math – rhanna@serraschool.org
6D Mrs. Joleen Bassett, Religion / Social Studies – jbassett@serraschool.org

Speciality Teachers:

Miss Bridget Wilhelm, Language Arts - bwilhelm@serraschool.org
Mr. Noah Loungarikis, Grades 5-8 Math Advanced Plus – nloungarikis@serraschool.org
Mrs. Gina Chrisman, Grade 6 ELA Small Group - gchristman@serraschool.org
Ms. Carrie Fiore, Grade 6 Science - cfiore@serraschool.org
Mrs. Jessica Kim-Saad, Art – jkim-saad@serraschool.org
Mr. Brock Gozbak, Physical Education – bgozbak@serraschool.org
Mrs. Kim Taylor, Music - ktaylor@serraschool.org
Mrs. Hilary Olson, Creativity Center - holson@serraschool.org

Instructional Assistant:

Mrs. Jean Leet, Grades 5-8- jleet@serraschool.org



The sixth grade teachers use email as their main source of communication. Please allow a 24-hour response time.

Grading Policy

Final grades will be determined by the following:

80% Authentic Assessment

20% Approaches to Learning

The students will be continually assessed using both formative and summative instruments, such as rubrics, classroom activities, research papers, individual and group presentations, projects, quizzes, and tests. Activities that support learning such as group work, class work, and homework will comprise a smaller portion of the student's total grade.

Formative assessment

The goal of formative assessment is to monitor student learning and to provide ongoing feedback that can be used by teachers to improve their teaching and by students to improve their learning.

Formative assessments:

- help students identify their strengths and weaknesses as well as target areas that need work.
- help faculty recognize where students are struggling and address problems immediately.

Summative assessment

The goal of summative assessment is to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional unit by comparing the assessment with standards and/or benchmarks.

Examples of summative assessments include:

- a chapter or midterm exam
- a final project
- a research paper /essay

Information from summative assessments can be used formatively when students or teachers use it to guide their efforts and activities in subsequent courses.

Homework and Late Work Completion of homework is an organizational skill that is critical to student success in middle school and beyond. A strict homework policy will be enforced. Assignments will be completed and submitted on the due date. The students will have two additional days to submit late work. After the two additional days, the assignment will be given half credit. They will be issued a demerit to record that the assignment was not on time, but the demerit will have no value associated with it.



In the event of a student absence, any missed work due to the absence is the responsibility of the student. Students are to use Canvas and talk to their teachers to find out what work was missed. Students are allowed as many days as they were absent to make up the missed work without being considered late.

Long Term Projects Long-term projects are due on the due date regardless of student absence.

Sixth Grade Curriculum

Religion

Text: *We Believe*: Sadlier

The Catholic Youth Bible: NRSV Saint Mary's Press

Family Life: Benziger

- Chapel for Mass, prayer services, rosary prayer, and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Diocesan Standards of Religion
- Old Testament: Foundation of the Catholic Church
- New Testament: Continued teachings of the New Covenant of Jesus; Gospel Studies
- The Four Pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Creed, Liturgy and Sacraments, Moral Life and Prayer
- Family Life: The Five Components of God's
- The Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy
- Spiritual Retreats
- On-going Service in Action: Outreach Projects and Service Opportunities
- Integration of Religion into all areas of instruction

Students will participate in reflective journal writing, study skill reinforcement, class discussion, creative projects and written assessments based on content that is faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church and that holistically embrace the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Creed, Liturgy and Sacraments, Moral Life and Prayer. Students will use the Catholic Youth Bible to reinforce the material that is taught in the textbook. The students will use their laptops to complete projects and assignments throughout the year. They will also use a variety of software to answer questions regarding the Sunday Gospel, and other questions regarding the material being covered in class. Rubrics will be provided for all projects. Subject matter will consist of the study of the Old Testament, Family Life, the liturgical year, famous figures of the Old Testament, Saints, the Sunday Gospel, the school virtues, and the theme of the school year.

Social Studies

Text: *World History Ancient Civilizations*: Holt, Rinehart and Winston

Students will participate in formal and informal note-taking activities, study skill reinforcement, class discussions, creative projects and written assessments. Subject matter will consist of students analyzing the



geographic, political, religious and social structures of Mesopotamia, India, China, Egypt, Greece and Rome. Students will also compare the events that occurred in these ancient civilizations to the foundations that we have in today's civilization, as well as complete STEM projects that relate to that specific civilization. The students will use their laptops to create projects, complete assignments, take quizzes, write their notes, and find current events. Rubrics will be provided for all projects.

English Language Arts (ELA)

Part I: Literature

Text *Savvas myPerspectives*

Novels

- ***Where the Red Fern Grows*** by Wilson Rawles (*Leveled*)
- ***Restart*** by Gordon Korman (*All*)
- ***Stargirl*** by Jerry Spinelli (*Adv, Leveled, Small Group*)
- ***Number the Stars*** by Lois Lowry (*Adv. and Adv. Plus only*)
- ***The Shakespeare Stealer*** by Gary Blackwood (*Adv. Plus only*)
- ***Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*** by Roald Dahl (*Small Group*)

Elements

Literary Analysis: Our literature program prepares our students for high school literature classes and includes comprehension skills that are Common Core aligned.

- **Literature Circles:** Students will participate in guided literature circle groups. Students will meet in small groups for a designated portion of the language arts class to discuss and complete a variety of activities on their common novel. A final group project will conclude each trimester.

NOTE: ELA Small Group will also incorporate both the *Reading Plus* programs in addition to the curriculum listed above.

Part II: Composition (Writing & Grammar)

Text *Simple Solutions Grammar workbook*

- The analytical essay will be taught this year beginning with the single paragraph form and working toward the three paragraph essay. The language arts department at St. Junipero Serra uses the Jane Schaffer color-coding and structuring format to help students with this genre of writing. Students will keep a folder of materials, samples, and exercises. The majority of student writing will be completed in the classroom; however, final drafts may need to be sent home for students to print.
- Students will acquire knowledge of grammar and mechanics using the Simple Solutions Grammar workbook and other supplemental materials. In addition, grammar mechanics will be practiced and enhanced through selected creative writing tasks that focus on the components of the Six Traits of Writing: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions. Assessment of writing will take place using a rubric.



In addition to the materials he or she will need for class (textbook, notebook, folder, pen, highlighter), each student should bring to class each day a book of his or her choice, since time for individual silent reading is sometimes built into the day's lesson.

ELA Enrichment

This ELA Enrichment supports the skills being developed in the ELA curriculum. These are skills that are beneficial across all content areas.

- Twenty minutes of Silent and Sustained Reading
 - Reading comprehension skills further developed through responding to short reading selections
 - Reading Vocabulary Development through Adaptive Programs:
 - Vocabulary.com
 - Reading Plus Vocabulary for small group (www.readingplus.com)
 - Individualized support for reading skills
-

Science

Materials: *Discovery Education* online
STEM/NGSS interactive lessons and investigations
Scholastic Superscience magazine

Students will investigate scientific concepts, rules and principles which are associated with planet Earth. Units of study may include astronomy, earth's landforms, earthquakes, volcanoes, rocks & minerals, and weather. Students will learn to use the scientific method of problem solving. A variety of methods will be used to assess how well students have met the learner outcomes as well as the content standard requirements. These methods include laboratory experiments, group activities, quizzes/tests and Next Generation Science (NGSS) performance tasks. Occasional homework will be assigned, along with monthly assessments.

Creativity Lab

We are excited to share with You and your child the St. Junipero Serra 5th-8th Grade Creativity Lab. The Creativity Lab is a 21st century learning lab for students of all interests, ages, and abilities. Creativity Labs put technology and learning resources in the hands of students, engaging learners in science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics (STEAM) while building critical 21st century skills.

Creativity Labs features project-based, student-centered curriculum supporting STEAM and other core academic content. The Creativity Lab is a powerfully integrated and comprehensive learning solution that combines technology with academics to prepare students for college and career success.

St. Junipero Serra's Creativity Lab features unique opportunities for students to explore, learn, and work in areas such as alternative energy, circuitry, computer graphics, digital communications, mechanical structure, robotics, scientific data and analysis, and software engineering. In our Creativity Labs students keep a daily record of their work, create final presentations, and self-assess their efforts. Together these records create a



portfolio demonstrating the depth and breadth of your child's learning. We store the portfolio electronically so your child may use the term, "ePortfolio" to describe the collection of work they maintain to demonstrate the skills, knowledge, and experience they gain while working in the Creativity Labs.

Math

Textbooks: *Envision Math 2.0 Grade 6, 2017 Edition*
Simple Solutions: Common Core Mathematics 6th Grade

Real-world applications will allow students to see how they can use math in their daily lives, and give students the foundation for the math needed in the future. Applications in every lesson reinforces the importance of learning mathematics. High priority will be placed on note-taking and study skills. Homework will be assigned from the Simple Solutions workbook, along with problems from new material taught. All math work must be completed in pencil, with all work shown, and answers highlighted in yellow. Simple Solutions and additional quizzes will be given on a regular basis. Chapter tests will be announced several days prior to the test. Pencil, red pen, yellow highlighter, graphing notebook, Simple Solutions, digital workbook, and textbook are standard materials for class.

Digital content (homework, quizzes, supplementals) integrated into the Saavas (Envision) math curriculum will be located on the following website: <https://www.savvasrealize.com/index.html#/>

Math (Advanced Plus)

Text: *enVisionMath 2.0 Common Core*, Pearson Education, Inc., Copyright 2015
Simple Solutions Workbook, Bright Ideas Press

The California Common Core State Standards will be the focus of every lesson. Students also will incorporate the Standards for Mathematical Practice. Both sets of standards can be viewed at <http://www.corestandards.org/Math/>. Each day in class, students will engage in experience- and discovery-based activities. **The website for the math text is: <https://www.pearsonrealize.com>**

This course focuses on mastery of Math 6 standards while introducing Math 7 standards. Students are expected to be active participants in discussions, work collaboratively, and seek assistance as needed from peers or Mr. Loungarikis.

Homework: Daily homework will be graded primarily on completion and effort, although some weight may be given to accuracy for certain assignments and/or projects.

Tests/Quizzes: There will be announced unit quizzes and unit tests, as well as a trimester final for all 3 trimesters. Authentic assessment accounts for 80% of a student's grade and is broken down as 70% test/quizzes and 10% trimester final.



Required Materials: Students should bring the following to class each day: Textbook, Simple Solutions workbook, notebook, charged Laptop, pencil pouch (with pre-sharpened pencils & eraser, pencil sharpener, red pen, yellow highlighter)

Extra Help: Mr. Loungarikis is always available via email. Please include a picture of the question when applicable. Mr. Loungarikis also has open math hours in his classroom or via zoom:

2:30p-3:00p Monday and Friday

Specialty Classes

All Specialty Elective classes will use 4-1 Grading Rubrics

4 Highly Proficient

3 Proficient

2 Emerging

1 Deficient

Art

Text/ Required Materials: 9 x 12in. spiral bound sketchbook. Pencils, Erasers, Glue Sticks, Colored Pencils, Watercolors, Oil Pastels, construction paper (various colors), graphic organizers (posted to Canvas and given in class)

This class is designed to expose students to a variety of drawing and painting techniques, develop knowledge of the elements of art and principles of design, and introduce students to artists, styles, and movements from the past to the present. This course will teach, develop and inspire knowledge of the following:

- The Elements of Art and Principles of Design
- Art vocabulary and history
- The Art process
- Technical skills through the use of various media
- How to work creatively and become emotionally aware of one's self.

Through Art, any person can access the beauty of God's Creation and their part in His Divine Plan for their lives.

Participation in Art Class is actively engaging in every lesson and activity—even if you are not particularly fond of the material or the subject. Be PRESENT. Be OPEN. Be CONSIDERATE. Be KIND.

Students will work on one or two to three projects per trimester. Projects are any artwork made in class that includes a Rubric when the student submits it to Canvas for grading. The majority of work done for art is in-class work completed in your student's sketchbook.

All projects are graded on the following FOUR categories:

1. Composition (how the artwork is organized/use of space given)
2. Craftsmanship (Neat and careful presentation of project; care/concern/effort put forth in your project/assignment)
3. Skill & Techniques (drawing ability/effort placed into drawing subject accurately--using each media effectively and properly)



4. Reflection (the student responds to various questions reflecting on the creative process and content of their artwork).

Project Points are broken down as:

- Composition=5 points
- Craftsmanship=5 points
- Skill & Technique=5 points
- Reflection=5points

In accordance with the previously outlined grading scales, projects will follow the specialites grading scale as follows:

Score of 4: 18-20 points

Score of 3: 15-17 points

Score of 2: 10-14 points

Score of 1: less than 10 points OR not completed/turned in.

Late Work:

Deadlines for assignments will be set in advance. It is the students’ responsibility to meet these deadlines. Any and all late assignments must be worked on and completed outside of regular class meetings. Assignments more than 2 weeks late will not be accepted.

Students are expected to engage in every project, therefore no extra credit opportunities are offered. **However**, assignments completed and turned in on time may be redone or reworked and resubmitted if the student is unsatisfied with his/her original grade. Work on said project must be done outside of normal class hours and submitted with original grading rubric. Any project a student wishes to redo/rework must be received no later than 2 weeks after the original project grading and within the date range of the trimester it was assigned in. The final project of each trimester will be due on the last regular instructional day of the trimester. Based on the aforementioned criteria, the final project of each trimester is not eligible to be redone/reworked.

Importance Encouragements:

- Ask Questions! Don’t be afraid to ask for clarification!
- Check your email often for Notifications and Announcements!
- Have fun!
- Keep a positive attitude!



Music Participation in Music Class means actively engaging in every lesson and activity—even if you are not particularly fond of the material or the subject. Be PRESENT. Be OPEN. Be CONSIDERATE. Be KIND. Participation will be followed, attendance will be taken and parents will be notified if issues arise.

Text/Required Materials: Although we do not have a specific text, lessons in Serra music classes will be pulled from various music texts and websites. Students will be asked to download materials from Canvas



throughout the year. We will be using NearPod to help deliver instruction and to aid in student engagement during lessons. Students will complete their study of musical items including dynamics, tempo, tonality, music history, music theory and other musical subjects. We will sometimes use “choice boards” that will include things like a songwriting project, dance lessons, body percussion, and discussion of clips from movies and musicals. Music Grades will be related to the 4 point scale used for Specialty Classes:

- 4 Highly Proficient
- 3 Proficient
- 2 Emerging
- 1 Deficient

Students are responsible for completing assignments on time. There will be no extra credit available, but students will be able to complete all assigned work before the end of the trimester. Any late work will not be eligible for the top grade. Please feel free to contact me if you feel like you are falling behind in music. I am willing to help anytime and know I cannot help if I do not know there is a problem.

At this time, if you have an interest in playing a band instrument, please contact me via email for more information. We currently have a small ensemble and are looking forward to more members joining, at a distance, at this time.



Physical Education St. Junipero Serra’s physical education curriculum will teach students new and challenging activities while emphasizing and encouraging the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Strategies will be taught to promote healthy life decisions. We will challenge all students to learn and grow while maintaining good character and building positive relationships.

The Physical Education program will focus on three main areas of student development and learning;”

1. The students will develop the values of sportsmanship and fair play, and be able to transfer those learned skills into their everyday life.
2. The students will work throughout the year to increase their total fitness level and evaluate their improvement through the Fitness Testing Program.

PE Expectations

- Safety is the number one priority. Students must use the equipment appropriately and be aware of their surroundings.
- Show good sportsmanship by being respectful and responsible to other classmates and teachers.
- During prayer absolutely no talking or disrespectful behavior.
- Do not talk while the teachers are talking, or any other teacher, adult visitor or peers.
- Come ready to participate. A large percentage of your grade is on participation.
- Be at your number when taking attendance, and make sure you come prepared (dressed in your PE uniform and gym shoes).
- The St. Junipero Serra Catholic Code of Conduct will be adhered to at all times.



- Be positive, help others, enjoy and participate.

Uniform Policy

1. The PE Uniform can be worn all day if the student has PE class on that particular day (Formal Dress Day Policy Below).
2. Shorts must be worn at waist level (especially the boys) and the shorts may not be rolled up at the waist or worn too high (especially the girls), all uniform policies and decisions are made at the discretion and judgment of the Physical Education Department and Principal.
3. Students may wear the designated school sweats any time of the year, but they must wear their PE shorts underneath.
4. Closed toe athletic shoes, laced up and tied, are required for all PE classes.
5. The school policy, in regard to PE uniform requirements on Formal Dress Uniform Days is that the students are to stay in their formal uniform. Students will not change for Physical Education.

Injuries/ Sickness/ Medical Concerns

Any condition that requires a student to sit out of PE activities must have a parent signed note, or email, to excuse for that day. If there is a recurring problem with a student missing due to notes, it may require a change in grading criteria or a conference with a parent to remedy any issues that may arise. A parent note is good for only three days of excused Physical Education. A doctor's note is needed for any extended period of time beyond that. If a student has forgotten a note and is not feeling well, please have them communicate with the school nurse or the teacher. While sitting out, the student will be assigned a task (scorekeeper, timer, written assessment, etc.). During class students must notify the teacher immediately of any injury that occurs, even if they are still able to participate. During a medical absence, the student is responsible for all assignments or information given out in class.

Curricular Enrichment Activities

Retreat/Field Trip The plan is to participate in a grade level retreat led by one of our Catholic high schools this year. Date, location and further information will be sent out via email later in the year.

***Best Wishes to you and your child for a successful year; together we are partners in their success.
The Sixth Grade Teaching Team***



**Sixth Grade
Family Life Permission Slip**

Dear Sixth Grade Parents,

Our sixth grade students will complete a family life program as a part of their religion class this year. We believe that parents are the primary educators of their children and that the church and school communities are partners with the family. To fulfill our part in this relationship, our bishop has mandated that schools educate the students in Catholic morality and in the teachings of the church. Mrs. Bassett will cover the material in the religion class.

Benziger Family Life reflects and reinforces a major priority in the church today: the preservation and sacredness of the family. Through this program, your child will have an opportunity to develop and practice the healthy attitudes, moral values, and virtues of a Christian family life.

The sixth grade students will also be participating in the Kids and Company: Safety Education Program mandated by Bishop Kevin Vann for all children in Catholic schools or religious education programs.

Please return the completed form to Mrs. Bassett by Friday, September 25, 2020

Family Life Permission Slip

Student Name: _____ Homeroom: _____

Permission:

_____ I **give** permission for my child to be included in the family life program in their religion class.

_____ I do **not** give permission for my child to be included in the family life program in their religion class.

Parent Name (Please Print): _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

**St. Junipero Serra Catholic School
Back-to-School Night ~ Sixth Grade
Parent/Student Acknowledgement Form**



*Please sign and date once you have read the Back-to-School Packet and return to your homeroom teacher **by Friday, September 25, 2020.***

We have read the Sixth Grade Back-to-School Night packet in its entirety and we are affixing our signatures to verify that we (parent(s) and student) understand its content and will comply with the aforementioned guidelines to the best of our ability.

Teacher Name: _____

Grade/Homeroom: _____

Student Name (printed)

Student Signature Date

Parent Name (printed)

Parent Signature Date