

Welcome to 6th Grade!

We are excited you have visited our page to learn more about the ins and outs of 6th Grade. If any questions remain unanswered after browsing our page, feel free to contact us via phone or e-mail.

ACADEMICS

How many students are there in 6th Grade?

- Depending on changing class sizes from year-to-year, there are approximately 50-60 students per grade level. For each core class, sizes range from 15-20 students.

How many classes do 6th Grade students have?

- Students rotate through 3 cores: Math, Science/Social Studies, & Language Arts (Reading and Writing). Each core is 85 minutes in length with brain breaks (bathroom, drink, snack) provided.

What can you tell me about homework?

- As a 6th grade team, we believe students spend many hours at school and family time at home is important. We give great consideration to the work sent home for students to complete and practice their skills. With that said, our motto is "Homework is work that has not been completed at school after an opportunity has been provided." We want students to demonstrate responsibility in completing a task that has been assigned.

Is there a syllabus for each core class that outlines what my student will learn in 6th Grade this year?

- Yes, attached to each teacher's link you will find either a classroom syllabus or brochure outlining the learning objectives for the year.

Do you utilize the Common Core State Standards?

- Yes, the Common Core State Standards serve as our guidelines for curriculum development and delivery.

What intervention or enrichment activities are available to my student in 6th Grade?

- There are many interventions and enrichments available to our 6th grade students. Our enrichments include Friday Focus, Project-Based Learning activities, Odyssey, Community Service Projects, Lights On, and differentiation of lessons within the classrooms. In addition to enrichment activities, we provide intervention opportunities for our 6th grade students. These opportunities include, but are not limited to, Academic Opportunity (A.O.), Breakfast Club, workshop, recess time, differentiation of lessons within the classrooms, and one-on-one teacher/student interactions.

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ELECTIVES/SPECIALS & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Do the students attend any electives or specials?

- 6th Graders attend two electives/specials each day. Examples of electives/specials include, but are not limited to: Band, Project-Based Learning (PBL), Drama, Physical Education/Health, Art, Library, and Music.

What are some example units taught in P.E.?

- Students will experience a variety of units while in P.E. A few examples include, but are not limited to: Swimming, Health, Dance (rhythmic and partner), Volleyball, and Floor Hockey.

Can my student participate in any school-sanctioned sports?

- 6th Grade students are welcome to participate in cross country, wrestling, and track. Other sports programs such as basketball, football, volleyball, soccer, etc. are offered through the Hot Spring County Recreation Department. For more information, please click on the link provided: <http://www.hsrecreation.com/>

Will my student receive guidance or classroom visits from the school counselor?

- Students will receive whole group instruction periodically from the counselor. Topics include bullying, chill skills, and peer interactions. One-on-one counseling is available upon request or recommendation.

When is the best time to contact the classroom teachers should I have any questions, comments, or concerns? What about the best method?

- Teachers are available from 3:40 p.m.-4:00 p.m. each day. In addition, feel free to contact us to arrange a meeting at another time more convenient for you. The best method of contact is typically by phone, but we also encourage e-mail correspondence and face-to-face visits.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT, BEHAVIOR, & DISCIPLINE

What classroom management systems are in place for students in 6th Grade?

- If a student displays an inappropriate behavior in the classroom, they are provided a warning and their name is written in a designated place where the student can see. If the student continues the behavior, a check is placed by their name signifying they have lost their recess privileges. If the behavior continues, another check is placed by their name, leave the classroom and enter the Refocus Room.

Please tell me more about the “Refocus Room” at TMS.

- The Refocus Room at TMS is a quiet place where a student can go out of the public's view for self-reflection and cool down under adult supervision. Once there, the student is asked to complete a self-reflection form identifying their struggles in their previous location.

Do all visits to the Refocus Room result in formal discipline referrals?

- No, often times students just need an opportunity to move to a quiet place for self-reflection. Depending on the behavior displayed by the student, the referring teacher ultimately makes the call as to whether the student's refocus room referral needs to move on to a formal discipline referral.

How will my student know the general rules of the classroom/school building?

- Great care is taken at the beginning of the year for students to learn the general rules of each classroom and school building. Through daily guidance in each core and a walk-through of the TMS Student Handbook, students learn what is expected of them.

How are students recognized for good behavior?

- Our students are recognized many times throughout the year for their good behavior. Quarterly, we send out a 6 P's Report to inform parents on student behaviors. Perfect 6 P Reports get recognized at the end of each quarter at our Voices Assembly. Currently, TMS also has a school wide reward system where students can earn tickets/tokens. With this system, all staff get to praise students for their good behaviors.

ADDITIONAL 6TH GRADE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Could you outline a "typical day" for a 6th Grader?

- Provide student schedule here...

Are students assigned a homeroom?

- Yes, each student is provided a homeroom group of students and teacher. This allows the student to check in at the beginning of the school day for attendance, announcements, and brief brain warm-up activities.

Are there any special field trips or out of the classroom learning experiences for 6th Graders?

- The Casper Planetarium visit, State Park End-of-Year outing, and trips around community for service projects are some of the field trips taken by the 6th grade.

When are Parent-Teacher Conferences?

- Parent/Teacher Conferences are held once in the fall and once in the spring; however feel free to contact us any time you have questions, comments, or concerns.

Is there recess in 6th Grade?

- Yes, students are provided recess following lunch from approximately 15-20 minutes each day.

What do students have to say about being in 6th Grade?

- * “I found that I learned better when each teacher got to teach the one subject they felt they teach better than the others. Instead of seeing one teacher, I got to see and get to know all of the wonderful 6th grade teachers.”
- * “I loved all the effort the teachers put in to our learning.”
- * “Our teachers taught us very important life lessons.”
- * “I had so many fun and educational experiences here at TMS and I know our future keeps getting brighter and brighter.
- * “The best part of sixth grade is the teachers because they’re the best in the world.”
- * “I enjoyed the “hands-on” activities.”
- * “I liked the fact that we got all of the teachers.”
- * “The teachers are the bomb. They make school fun.”