



Mr. Marano (Science/Social Studies)
Mrs. Schuch (Math)
Mrs. Stutesman (ELA)
Mrs. Martin (Accelerated Math & Gifted Reading)

Hello, Fabulous 6th Grade Families,

We are excited to begin what promises to be an amazing year!

Please review our **syllabus** for important information about policies, procedures, and introductions to each content area teacher.

Thank you,

Your 6th Grade Teachers



English Language Arts (jennifer.stutesman@dvusd.org)

Welcome to 6th Grade **English Language Arts!**

We will kick off the year with our first read-aloud, Frindle by Andrew Clements. This fun novel tells the story of Nick Allen, a creative student who challenges his teacher by inventing a new word. Through Nick's adventures, students explore important ideas like how actions have consequences and how powerful language can be.

This year, we're using the **McGraw Hill StudySync program**. StudySync is designed to help students build strong reading, writing, and critical thinking skills—important for success now and in the future. We're also using **No Red Ink Premium**, a writing program that helps students become confident and effective writers.

Curriculum & Resources:

- [ELA Curriculum & Resources 6-12](#)
- [DVUSD Novel List](#)

The Beginning ... What's Happening:

- The first few days of the school year, students take the NWEA MAP Growth assessment in ELA and math. This test helps teachers understand your child's current strengths and areas for growth. You'll receive a family report once the testing window is closed. NWEA is not a grade. Please ask your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Looking Ahead:

- Week 2, we'll start visiting the library! Students can check out 2 books each week and should always have an independent reading book in class. Our classroom library is also available. Students are expected to have an independent reading choice with them.

Writing Project:

- Our first essay, *The Story of My Name*! Information about this assignment will be sent home this week. Students will interview their families to learn about the story behind their names—a fun way for us all to connect and learn more about each other.

Grades and assignments can be tracked through PowerSchool. If you have any questions, please reach out. I'm excited for a fantastic year ahead! - Mrs. Stutesman



SS/SCI (john.marano@dvusd.org)

Welcome to 6th grade SS/SCI!

The first week of school was on fire, but also about learning procedures and expectations, as well learning about each other. The students did begin work on the first science unit and this week we will continue to work on lessons in both subjects on Canvas. What a great week we had with our new sixth graders!

-It has been a pleasure getting to know this great group of students.



Math (renee.schuch@dvusd.org)

Welcome to 6th Grade Math!

We began the school year by exploring the **Growth Mindset**—a powerful approach that encourages students to embrace challenges, learn from mistakes, and persist through difficulties.

Our math curriculum is based on **Open Up Resources**, a problem-based program aligned with the Common Core State Standards. Families can explore the curriculum and access helpful materials, including video lesson summaries and practice problems through our website.

Students will complete assignments using **Canvas**, **Magma Math** and/or **Goblins**, all of which are part of DVUSD's math support tools. These platforms offer differentiated support, allowing students to explore math concepts at their own pace and with guidance from their teacher or online tutor. For more information, please visit our [6th Grade Math Website](#) or contact your child's teacher directly. [Open Up Resources+5Open Up Resources+5Open Up Resources+5](#)

Assessment Update

This week, students completed the **NWEA MAP Growth assessment**, which helps measure their current academic performance and tracks their growth over time. This data assists teachers and families in understanding how students are progressing and how their performance compares to peers nationwide.

It's been a wonderful first week! I'm looking forward to the year ahead!

Gifted Education- SAGE Reading and Math (kristina.martin@dvusd.org)

SAGE Reading: Students who qualify for SAGE Reading will receive content replacement for reading that will include advanced vocabulary, complex text, and critical reading that teach the standards. This instruction will incorporate Depth and Complexity frameworks, the College of William & Mary units, Junior Great Books, Jacob's Ladder and Wordly Wise 3000. This will be alongside 6th grade ELA instruction and Mrs. Stutesman and I will be working together to meet the student's academic needs. Next week, we will begin with an introduction to Depth and Complexity frameworks and Wordly Wise 3000. Classwork (20%) and assessments (80%) make-up your student's ELA grade. Grades and assignments can be tracked through PowerSchool.

SAGE Math: Students who qualify for SAGE Math will receive content replacement for math at the 7th grade instructional level, with the incorporation of project based learning. Students will be continuing working on collaborative team thinking activities and taking the NWEA district math assessment. 7th grade math curriculum is [Open Up Resources](#) and we will begin with Unit 1: Scale Drawings ([Unit 1 Resources](#)). With each unit, students will have Practice Problems to complete in Canvas for each lesson, as well as enrichment/review assignments in DVUSD math programs Magma and Goblins. Classwork (20%) and assessments (80%) make-up your student's ELA grade. Grades and assignments can be tracked through PowerSchool.

-I'm excited for a year of engaging reading adventures and meaningful math learning!"

6th Grade Syllabus 2026

District Handbook & Forms

- Visit the [Handbooks and Forms page](#) on the A-Z Guide on the DVUSD Website to find
- Several forms that are completed annually by parents/guardians in association with student technology use have been updated for the 2025-2026 school year.

All Things E.Q.

Hello Families,

Highland Lakes is excited to announce our partnership with All Things E.Q. because parents, teachers, and students all want the same thing: a healthy, happy learning environment that provides students with the academic and social skills they need to succeed.

Teachers appreciate All Things E.Q. (ATEQ) because the weekly insights improve rather than interfere with academic instruction. An independent four-year study showed, with statistical significance, that All Things E.Q. raised English Language Arts & Math scores on state assessments, increased attendance, and decreased student discipline referrals in both frequency and severity. All Things E.Q. focuses on four quarterly themes:

1. Am I being kind and helpful at this moment?
2. Am I using helpful self-talk?
3. Am I making an honest effort?
4. Am I focusing on solutions instead of problems?

Each week, students are introduced to the weekly motto, which teaches different academic and social skills needed for success in school. For example, our students will learn how to work through confusion, learn from mistakes, and work well in groups!

Parents appreciate being informed about each week's motto with our weekly parent insights, which share how to implement the weekly motto at home if they choose. If you wish to receive the free weekly parent insights for this school year, please email the founder of ATEQ directly at danna@allthingseq.com, and you will be added to the email list.

ATEQ earned a 95% approval rating in a parent satisfaction survey. All Things E.Q. weekly parent insights were rated with a 4.44 (Very Good to Excellent) out of 5 (Excellent) in terms of creating a positive learning community. We believe it's important to include parents, and schools perform better when parents and teachers work together rather than in isolation.

We look forward to a successful school year,

Your Highland Lakes Administration Team,

Ms. Hicks and Mrs. Ware

Chromebook Use

- Students will either leave Chromebooks in their backpacks or on a side counter to charge until the teacher instructs the students to take out the Chromebook and for what purpose.
- Once students have completed the task on the Chromebook, students will be required to put the Chromebook away.
- Students are not permitted to take their backpacks or Chromebooks to lunch.
- Chromebooks may be monitored or searched at any time.
- Students are not to be playing games not related to the content of the class. Students who choose to violate this policy may face disciplinary action, which may include a conference with the teacher, parent notification, lunch detentions, referrals, and/or loss of device privileges.

Power-Washing

Attached are the instructions for power-washing your student's Chromebook. Performing a power-wash about once a month is a great way to keep your child's Chromebook running at its best.

- [Power-Washing Instructions for student computers](#)

GRADING POLICIES :

All policies listed below are from the DVUSD grading policies.

[DVUSD Grading Policies Link](#)

Grading

One grade scale will be used to mark student proficiency of the standards and one grade scale will be used to calculate the overall course grade. The DVUSD Governing Board has adopted the grade scales below for the 2025-2026 school year.

Overall course grades will be calculated from the average of the student's assignment scores (assessments, coursework) using the following scale:

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = 0-59%

Gradebook entries will be associated with one of the following categories and weighted in the following manner:

- ASSESSMENT Category 80%
- COURSEWORK Category 20%
- PRACTICE Category 0%

In addition, proficiency will also be indicated. Overall standards grades will be informational and will not affect the course grade.

4 = Highly Proficient

3 = Proficient

2 = Partially Proficient

1 = Minimally Proficient

Citizenship

Citizenship marks in grades K-8 will continue to use the E/S/N/U scale.

E = Excellent

S = Satisfactory

N = Needs Improvement

U = Unsatisfactory

Behaviors such as not turning in work on time, classroom disruptions, general behaviors, and interactions with others will be considered when determining a student's citizenship grade.

Missing Work

Missing Work : An assignment is considered as missing work when it is not submitted by the due date.

Missing work will be treated as such:

- The assignment will be marked with the "Missing" special code in the gradebook
- A zero ("0") will be entered as the score for the assignment in the gradebook (grades 3-12)
- No Evidence (NE) will be entered for the standards attached to the assignment

- If the work is submitted as Late Work (see terms below), the zero (“0”) assignment score will be changed to reflect the student’s actual score with no deductions or penalties

Late Work

Late Work : An assignment is considered late work when the assignment is not submitted by the due date that was established, but is submitted within the late work timeframe listed below.

In order for **Late Work** to be accepted, students must meet the following parameters:

- Assignment is not due within the class period (in class assignment)
- Assignment is not a timed activity (such as a Quick-Write Essay)
- Assignment is not a Long-Term assignment (over multiple days)
- Assignment is turned in within the following time frame:
 - 3-8 Grades: Within 5 school days after the end of the unit

If a student meets the above criteria, he/she will be issued full credit for the work submitted (no added penalties or caps on the grade that can be earned). The assignment will be marked with the “Late” special code.

If the assignment is an assessment, the proficiency level of the standards attached will be entered.

Absent Work

Governing Board Policy for submission of coursework assigned while a student was absent says, "Each teacher will provide the student's assignment(s) and any handouts or materials necessary for accomplishment of such assignment(s), allowing a minimum make up period of one (1) day for each day absent.

Assessment Retakes

Retake : The student completes another assessment of the same learning targets. The assessment to be retaken may be in the same format or a different format. The higher of the two scores will be entered in the gradebook.

In order to earn a retake opportunity, the following requirements must be met.:

- All assignments related to the content/concept must have been turned in
- Meet with the teacher
- Submit a reassessment plan or application, if required by the teacher,

A **reassessment plan** must be scheduled within the following time frames:

- 3rd-8th Grades: Within 10 school days after receiving the assessment score

- Retakes can be in another format. In other words, if a student qualifies to retake an assessment, he or she may be assessed with several constructed response test items on the second attempt rather than a multiple choice exam as was administered on the first attempt.
- *Retakes are not allowed for district and state assessments.

Extra Credit

Just as imposing grade penalties for poor behavior distorts academic grades, so does awarding higher grades or extra credit for good behavior. Extra credit renders an academic grade less accurate since it is not based upon performance of the standards, but rather on compliant behaviors. No extra credit will be awarded.

MTSS: Multi-tiered System of Support

6th Grade MTSS time is Monday through Thursday. During this time, students participate in various activities, including orchestra/band pull-outs, learning center support, small group support for math and ELA, enrichment, test retakes, organizational support, and more.

*Your child's MTSS support will fluctuate based on their instructional needs.

Instructional Technology

- [DVUSD Generative Levels of AI Use by Students](#)
- [DVUSD Academic Integrity Statement](#)
- [DVUSD Academic Dishonesty Statement](#)