

Joanna Johnson/6th grade/Room 20
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Miss Johnson hopes you had a great summer and are ready for a fun-filled year in sixth grade. Get your mind in gear for Language Arts and Social Studies. The following are general guidelines to the basic classroom structure. It should provide you with the expectations Miss Johnson has for this year.

Expectations-- Come to class on time, be prepared, and ready to learn, continue on the path of being a lifelong learner, and collaboratively work together as a group. You will be making choices which will have a lasting effect on your life. It is important to learn how to make wise choices. These choices will shape your future as you continue middle school and think about your life's path. Miller Middle School focuses on teaching and reinforcing "The Mustang Way: Be Respectful, Responsible, and Caring." Expected behaviors will be taught and reinforced using the PBIS framework. If disruptive behaviors are happening, communication with parents/guardians via ParentSquare will take place after the student has had a conversation with Miss Johnson. A behavior report may also be emailed to parents/guardians and the student to be reviewed at home.

Planner-- It is recommended that you have a Miller planner or some type of planner that is either on paper or digitally. It is used daily for keeping track of homework and other basic information. The Miller handbook also includes the Student Handbook, which outlines the duties and responsibilities while at Miller Middle School. You will be given time in class to write down the homework in your planner.

Homework-- You should check your planner and Google Classroom each night for your homework assignments. Not completing classwork and/or homework will affect your overall grade. Remember, it is best if you get into a routine for nightly homework--same time, same distraction-free location, etc. The purpose of Language Arts homework is to finish assignments and essays that were not completed in class, prepare for discussions in class, and work on Quill.org grammar assignments. The purpose of Social Studies homework is to finalize projects and assignments.

Progress Reports-- If you are consistently receiving a D or F, an email home and/or conference will be set up. Office progress reports will be sent home in the middle of every semester.

StudentVUE/ParentVUE Grading-- It is very important that you check StudentVUE/ParentVUE at least three or four times a week. Miss Johnson posts grades with comments so that everyone knows why they didn't receive full credit on an assignment. Miss Johnson feels the comment section is great feedback. StudentVUE/ParentVUE is also a good tool to use to see if there are any missing assignments.

Missing/Late Assignments-- Any missing assignments can be turned in more than one day late, but the highest grade that will be given is a C. If an assignment is not turned in at all, you will receive a zero on the assignment. If an online assignment is late, it is your responsibility to email Miss Johnson that the assignment is completed. Also, it is your responsibility to make sure your name is on the physical work and that it is turned into the assignment bin.

Grade Equivalencies

93 - 100% = A (exceeds standards)	73 - 76% = C (moving towards meeting standards)
90 - 92% = A- (meets standards)	70 - 72% = C- (moving towards meeting standards)
87 - 89% = B+ (meets standards)	67 - 69% = D+ (does not meet standards)
83 - 86% = B (meets standards)	63 - 66% = D (does not meet standards)
80 - 82% = B- (moving towards meeting standards)	60 - 62% = D- (does not meet standards)
77 - 79% = C+ (moving towards meeting standards)	59% or below = F (does not meet standards)

Absences-- If you are absent, Miss Johnson will send you an email through ParentSquare/StudentSquare on what was missed and what needs to be done. It is your responsibility to inform Miss Johnson when work is ready to be graded online.

Language Arts--Students who read well learn the tempo and structure of language. It is expected that students will master skills in literary analysis and learn to trace evidence to support an idea. Students will study units of *narrative, expository reading and writing, argumentative, comparing themes across genres, and informational research*. There is a strong focus on the analysis of informational (non-fiction) text. Students are expected to gain a command of English conventions (including spelling) appropriate to 6th-grade level and beyond. Specific curriculum that will be used is IBD for reading comprehension and analysis, Units of Study for essay writing, CommonLit.org for specific standards related to Reading Comprehension and Analysis, and Quill.org for Conventions and Grammar.

Social Studies-- Miss Johnson has created most of the lessons for 6th grade.

Students will develop an understanding of chronological and spatial thinking, research, evidence, point of view, and historical interpretation. They will study the people and events of major Western and nonwestern ancient civilizations. Students in 6th grade will learn that geography is of special significance in the development of the human story. Students will develop higher levels of critical thinking by considering why, where, and when civilizations developed, why they became dominant, and why they declined. The following ancient civilizations will be studied: Early Humans, Mesopotamia and Sumer, Egypt, Hebrews, India, China, Greece, and Rome. The textbook that students will be using is *History Alive! The Ancient World*.

Chromebooks-- Living in Silicon Valley, the need for computer skills is great. Students will have their own Chromebook to use during the year that will also be used at home. In order for students to be able to use the Chromebooks, a completed CUSD Internet Acceptable Use Form must be on file. The expectation is that students show appropriate behavior with the laptop's usage. No personal email or personal Google Drive accounts can be installed. Students will have their own cusdk8.org account to use at school and at home.

Supplies--CUSD provides all necessary supplies for student learning. Voluntary donations of the following items are accepted, but not expected. Below is a list of recommended supplies for the year. All of these supplies can be used in multiple classes. All items are considered to be a donation. No pupil shall be prohibited from participating due to an inability to get any materials.

*5-10 pencils

*1 personal tissue box

*3-5 colored pens

*binder paper

*donations of tissue for the classroom would be greatly appreciated

Miss Johnson believes that positive interaction between herself, parents/guardians, and students strengthens the feeling of support everyone needs for success in school. Miss Johnson's goal this year is to create an atmosphere of open communication. Please feel free to contact Miss Johnson if you have any questions. Email is the best way to communicate with her. She will return your message/email as soon as possible. Thank you, and together we can actualize everyone's full potential to make everyone lifelong learners.