



SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

THURGOOD MARSHALL MIDDLE SCHOOL • 11778 Cypress Canyon Road, San Diego, CA 92131
Phone: (858) 549-8840 Fax: (858) 549-4910

September 6, 2006

Dear Parents:

I am delighted to have your child in my classroom this year. I am looking forward to a creative and productive year filled with high expectations in both academic and social learning. I know this year will be an exciting one for you and your child.

Following are some important rules, guidelines, and objectives of which you need to be aware:

Classroom Behavior:

My first and foremost priority in the classroom is to educate students. I believe that your child's first priority in Room 154 is to learn. With this in mind, school behavior standards will be enforced and I expect all students to uphold these standards while learning in the classroom. By working together, you, your child, and I can guarantee your child's success in the classroom without encountering any discipline or behavior problems. I appreciate your support and guidance of your child in this area.

Course Descriptions:

Mathematics

Mathematical skills and conceptual understanding will be developed during the year through many hands-on materials, activities, and teaching methods. We will be using the Harcourt Brace textbooks. Through the year, we will address such concepts as data collection, geometry, decimals, algebra, measurement, number theory, fractions, proportions, and probability. Students will participate in group projects, investigations, and daily math exercises. Students should expect to receive homework each school night for the days that they attend math class. Tests and quizzes will be administered at regular intervals.

Grading Breakdown for Math:

Homework/Class work	60%
Tests/Quizzes	40%

If a student scores below 70% on a math test, the student is eligible to retake the test at a time scheduled by the teacher. The highest score possible on a retake is 75%.

Late math homework will NOT be accepted for any reason other than an excused absence. Math skills build each day and students most benefit when math assignments are completed on time.

Social Studies

Students will study ancient civilizations starting with early man and continuing through to the Roman Empire. We utilize the sixth grade social studies textbook as well as various simulation and interactive activities. Topics covered during the year include early man, archeology, Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Ancient China, Ancient Japan, Ancient Greece, and Ancient Rome.

Science

Students will be studying aspects of life, physical, and earth sciences through the use of FOSS science kits, class investigations and experiments, written work, and reading. Earth science studies will include processes that change the earth's surface (erosion, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, etc.). Physical science will focus on the transference of heat energy. Life science studies will include investigations into various biomes and interactions between plants and animals. We will also be utilizing the Holt textbooks and Investigative Earth Systems.

Social Studies and Science share the same period. This means I will alternate subjects throughout the school year. Please refer to the class web site for an approximate timeline:
http://marshallteachers.sandi.net/teacher_sites/schmidt/index.htm

Grading Breakdown for Science and Social Studies:

Homework/Class work	60%
Tests*	40%

*Test retakes will NOT be given in Social Studies or Science

Extra credit is not available in these courses. Students' grades will be available online and updated weekly. A user ID and password are required to access the information at: <http://www.eclassinfo.com/home.asp?id=cschmidtmms>

Homework:

Homework will be assigned as an extension of class work and activities. Students will often begin an assignment in class and then complete it at home. There will also be reports and ongoing projects assigned throughout the school year.

Students should spend a minimum of thirty minutes on each subject Monday through Thursday.

Homework will be communicated to students in the following ways:

- Assigned verbally by the teacher (students will need to listen!)
- Written on the white board
- Posted on the class web site

Homework is due as assigned. Late work for social studies/science (not due to absence) may be submitted, but students should be aware that late penalties will apply. **Late work will receive a maximum of half credit. No late math homework is accepted.** Absentee work must be submitted within three days of the student's return to school. Homework should be completed at home, and ready for submission at the beginning of the class period. All work submitted should be neat, legible, and contain proper headings. Students are expected to do their own work.

All homework assignments are to be written in the student's planner, and parents should review and sign the planner on a regular basis. Students may access the class web site for homework information:
http://marshallteachers.sandi.net/teacher_sites/schmidt/index.htm

Citizenship:

Students should arrive to class prepared to learn with a positive attitude and all necessary materials. Students should always have homework, notebook, pencils, and student planner. The student's effort, cooperation, behavior, and interaction with other students will determine citizenship grades. Citizenship grades will be affected if students are not prepared for class.

Citizenship grades will be given as follows:

E – excellent – student EXCEEDS requirements and standards, and sets a good example for others to follow.

G – good – student does more than is required

S – satisfactory – student does what is expected most of the time

N – needs to improve – student needs CONSTANT reminders of behavior standards and is frequently unprepared or disruptive

U – unsatisfactory

Classroom Expectations (in addition to school rules and policies):

1. Bring notebook, paper, pencil, and necessary class materials daily.

2. Keep all assignments in Daily Planner
3. Be in your seat and ready to learn before the bell rings.
4. Raise your hand to be called on or to leave your seat.
5. Sharpen pencils before class.
6. No candy, gum, food, or beverages other than water allowed in class.
7. The teacher dismisses the class, not the bell.
8. Use the golden rule – be courteous to others!

Consequences:

1. First time a rule is broken – verbal warning
2. Second time – 10 minutes after school
3. Third time – after school detention, contact parent
4. Fourth time – after school detention, contact parent
5. Fifth time – after school detention, refer to counselor or assistant principal, contact parent

Assignment Submission:

It is important that students' work is done neatly, carefully, and contains the proper headings and labels. Work that is submitted should be "final copy" quality unless otherwise specified. This includes proper punctuation and spelling, clear handwriting, and errors that have been erased rather than scratched out. Papers being submitted for grading should not be torn out of a notebook.

Student headings should be placed on the top right side of each paper. Headings should include first and last name, class period, date, and assignment description. Math assignments should follow the specified format as instructed in class. Papers with no name will not be accepted.

Academic Honesty:

Students learn by doing their own work, not copying someone else's. All students involved in copying and/or plagiarism will receive a zero on the assignment without the opportunity to complete an alternative assignment, as well as other negative consequences as indicated in the student handbook. A student's citizenship grade will also be lowered.

Supplies:

Be prepared for school. Bring these items every day:

- blank, lined paper
- student planner (provided by the school)
- spiral notebook (college ruled, 1 per subject)
- pencils with erasers (mechanical is permitted)
- colored pencils
- highlighter
- glue stick
- dry erase marker

Additionally, students should have the following materials available for use at home:

- tape
- scissors
- protractor
- ruler

Parent/Teacher Communication:

I strongly believe that frequent, positive communication is an essential element for a student's success. I will send out informational emails to keep you updated on sixth grade activities throughout the year**. If you prefer not to be contacted via email, please let me know so that alternative arrangements can be made. Other messages sent home may require a parent signature. Please insist that your child return these signature slips as soon as possible.

I am confident that we will all have a fantastic year together as your child continues to grow into an accomplished individual. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or at the school. I am always willing to address any questions or concerns you might have about your child's progress in the classroom.

Sincerely,

Chris Schmidt
cschmidt@sandi.net
858.549.8840 ex. 1154

** To be placed in the class address book and included in informational emails, please send an email to **cschmidt@sandi.net** with your child's name in the subject line.

Schmidt
Sixth Grade Syllabus

Please sign to indicate that you have received, read, and understand the policies explained in this syllabus.

Student Name: _____ Student Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____