



Dear Sixth Grade Parents,

Welcome to sixth grade! I am looking forward to next fall and sharing all the tremendous things in store for the year.

My name is Stephen Combs and I'll be teaching sixth grade language arts and social studies. I believe that sixth grade's focus on the ancient world and literature will be an outstanding partnership to learn about our world and its early histories. Sixth grade's curriculum grants us a great opportunity to wander through the ages and peek at some of history's most exciting civilizations. Our adventure will begin in Mesopotamia, and end centuries later during the Middle Ages.

Outside of school, I love to read, play sports, fly-fish, and spend time with my friends and family. I share a true passion for the outdoors, and think that our best learning comes when we get to look outside of the classroom. I am looking forward to a great year, and am excited to share this keystone Meadowbrook experience with your children.

My name is Kelsey Harp. Mathematics is my passion, so I am very excited to share that with you and your child again! This will be my seventh year at The Meadowbrook School. This will be special for me, as it will be the first time all three of my children will be in the same school! Outside of school, I love the beach and all things Philadelphia sports! My husband and I love attending Phillies and Eagles games together. As a family we love going to the beach, biking, hiking, and being outside! I am going to work to build a strong positive relationship with your child, but also between your child and mathematics. Math sometimes gets a bad rap and an eye roll from people, but I want your child to be so confident and fluent in math that numbers are second nature to him or her. But in order to do that, I ask that you include your child in things at home that involve math. Are you getting a new fence? Have your child help measure and estimate the amount of fence you will be ordering, then have them even calculate the estimated price! Are you doubling a recipe? Have your child help you figure out the new amounts of the ingredients. Have your child figure out the change they should receive if they are ordering an ice cream treat and given \$5. These are just a few ideas. We do more math than we think on a daily basis, so thinking about it outloud can help us build number sense in children.

Sixth grade is full of a lot of excitement! Some of the highlights include: The Hobby Show, The Medieval Festival, leading the Mardi Gras performance, the Sparta vs. Athens Debate, participating in D.A.R.E. with local police officers, having Pre-Kindergarten buddies, and of course Graduation!

I hope you all get a chance to enjoy some of your favorite activities this summer and will be ready to share one of them with us all at the Hobby Show!

Sincerely,  
Stephen Combs  
and Kelsey Harp

## 6th Grade SUPPLY LIST

~8 Folders labeled with name and student name:

- Homework
- Reading
- Writing
- Social Studies
- Math
- Independent Work
- Spanish

~3 Spiral Notebook labeled with name and student name:

- Writing
- Math
- Social Studies

~2 composition notebooks

~Clipboard

~8 Glue sticks

~A ruler

~3-inch hardcover binder

~Binder expander/dividers (with pockets)

example:

[https://www.amazon.com/Oxford-Expanding-Insertable-Multicolor-89605/dp/B08WCYKLGK?source=ps-sl-shoppingads-lpcontext&ref\\_=fplfs&smid=ATVPDKIKXoDER&th=1](https://www.amazon.com/Oxford-Expanding-Insertable-Multicolor-89605/dp/B08WCYKLGK?source=ps-sl-shoppingads-lpcontext&ref_=fplfs&smid=ATVPDKIKXoDER&th=1)

~1 pack of binder dividers

~1 pack wide-ruled lined paper

~2 regular black Sharpies (permanent marker)

~2 thin black Sharpies

~4 pack of dry erase markers

~2, 12 pack of pencils

~5 pink erasers

~5 black or blue ink pens

~Colored markers

~Crayons

~Colored pencils

~sors

~3 rolls of Scotch tape

~White out (bottled, if possible)

~2 different colored highlighters

~A bottle of hand sanitizer

~A box to put extra supplies in to keep in their desk or locker

~A folder holder or magazine holder to use beside their desk that can fit all of their folders and notebooks

~3 boxes of tissues

~2 containers of cleaning wipes

~2 bottles of hand sanitizer

~Wired earbuds (not headphones, please)

~A wired or wireless mouse for Chromebook (if possible)

## **INCOMING SIXTH GRADE SUMMER WORK**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Over the summer, I ask that you please have your child maintain the skills learned this past year and encourage them to strengthen their knowledge base by reviewing new concepts.

I strongly encourage the continued use of the online math program IXL. Students should be very familiar with finding their recommended skills, and know how to complete the diagnostic assessment to get more recommended skills. If they are stuck on a particular skill, a quick search on Google or Youtube should offer some help. Students are also asked to complete a math journal that will continue being used once school begins in September. See the attached letter from Mrs. Harp with guidance and ideas for entries.

There are a few online resources that your child can utilize over the summer. My favorite ones include: IXL, Prodigy, Epic!, Khan Academy, Sheppard Software, Smithsonian Learning Lab, and Wonderopolis.

I am also asking that your child reads ***at least two books*** over the summer and completes two book reports. One book should be from the recommended reading list, and the other can be a book of their choice. For each book, the questions on the following page must be answered in paragraph form. It is my hope that you will encourage your child to read as many books as possible over the summer. By reading together, as well as discussing books read independently, reading can be a very pleasant experience for your whole family.

The reading book reports are due the first day of school. We will all enjoy sharing our favorite books with each other the first week of school.

Have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing all of you soon!

Sincerely,

Stephen Combs

## **SUMMER BOOK REPORTS**

**Please choose one book from the recommended reading list and another book of your choice to complete two book reports.**

*Please answer these questions on a separate piece of paper in paragraph form. Use 5-8 sentences for each paragraph. You may write neatly or type up your answers about each of the two books.*

Please make an attractive cover or poster for each book that includes the title of the book, the author's name, and your name.

Paragraph One: What is the plot of your story? What happens throughout the book?

1. Introduce the setting(s), key characters, and what is motivating them.
2. What is the conflict in the story?
3. Resolution/Conclusion: How do the characters solve the conflict?

Paragraph Two: Choose your favorite chapter in your book and write about it.

Please include:

1. What you liked or disliked about this chapter.
2. What is happening with the characters and the conflict of the story in this particular chapter?
3. If you could change something about this chapter, what would it be?

Paragraph Three: If you could be one character in the book, which one would you be? Make sure you support your statements with details from the book.

Things to consider:

1. What do you like about this character - specific qualities or traits.
2. Does your character have any unique strengths or weaknesses?
3. Do you see yourself as similar to this character, or do they have any characteristics you would like to have?

Paragraph Four: What is the overall theme of your book? Bravery? Forgiveness? Survival? Independence? Please provide specific examples from the text to support your answer.

Paragraph Five: Critical Thinking & Connections. How does this story relate to you? Do you see yourself as similar or dissimilar to the characters? Could you see yourself hoping to achieve the same goals as them? Would you approach the conflict of the story the same way they did? Does the world in the story seem similar to our own? Provide any information that you can make connections with to the story.

## **RECOMMENDED READING LIST FOR INCOMING SIXTH GRADERS**

### **CHOOSE AT LEAST ONE!**

- *Framed! A T.O.A.S.T. Mystery* by James Ponti
- *When Stars Are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed
- *Amari and the Night Brothers* by B.B. Alston
- *A Place to Hang the Moon* by Kate Albus
- *New Kid* by Jerry Craft
- *Ten Thousand Tries* by Amy Makechnie
- *The Van Gogh Deception* by Deron Hicks
- *Allies* by Alan Gratz
- *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* by Dusti Bowling
- *The Last Last Day of Summer* by Lamar Giles
- *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds
- *Finding Wonders: Three Girls Who Changed Science* by Jeannine Atkins
- *Middle School: The Worst Years of my Life* by James Patterson and Chris Tebbetts
- *The Journey That Saved Curious George* by Louise Borden
- *An Elephant in the Garden* by Michael Morpurgo

Dear Families,

This summer I am asking your students to keep a math journal. Each student will be asked to complete at least 10 journal entries. This can be kept in a spiral notebook, or composition book and we will continue to journal in it over the course of the 2023-2024 school year.

It is important for students to recognize math in the world around them, and make connections between their everyday experiences and math. Attached are some ideas for entries, but these are not the only options students can write about. Each entry should be at least a half a page detailing the connections between the experience and math; or the entry can be a collection of data represented in a chart, table, or graph with some observations about the data. Students are encouraged to use illustrations/pictures to support their solutions/explanations.

Here are some ideas for math journal entries. These are ideas, you are welcome to complete them, or you can use them to spark ideas of your own!

- Ice Cream Math- You want to get a 2-scoop ice cream from an ice cream shop. How many different kinds of 2-scoop cones can be made with 10 flavors?
- More Ice Cream-What ice cream is the best deal, the cheapest price per scoop (take the price and divide by the number of scoops you are buying? What is the cost per scoop in the 2, 3, 4, etc scoops?
- Mini golf- If you go mini golfing, be sure to keep an accurate score card. Create a line plot with your score on each hole. What score did you get most often (mode)? What was your maximum score? What was your minimum score? What was your average number of shots per hole?
- A Day in the Life- Keep a time schedule of everything you do for 24 hours (not every little thing like I tied my shoe, but all of the major activities for the day) with a start and end time. Be sure a complete 24 hours are recorded. Then group each activity into a category (such as sleep, leisure, eating, chores, movement, etc). Find the total time (in hours and minutes) of each category. What activity did you spend the most time doing? Least? How much more time did you spend on the longest activity versus the shortest? Include other observations about the time you spend on activities.
- Sleeping- Record the time you go to bed and the time you wake up each day for a week, and calculate the number of hours and minutes you spent sleeping each night. Create a table and bar graph to represent this data.
- Sports- playing a sport this summer? Keep track of one of the statistics in your sport. Examples- for each game record the number of hits and at bats you had, and at the end of the summer, calculate your batting average by dividing the number of hits by the number of at bats. Basketball- record the number of points you score each game, and at the end of the season, find your average points per game by dividing the number of points by the number of games played.
- Road trip? Going on a trip this summer? Predict what color car you will see most often, then create a tally chart to record the color of each vehicle you pass. Are all the colors about the same? Which color was most often? Least often? What was the difference between the most often and least often? Did the most popular color surprise you?

- Beach-record the water temperature each day for the week. What was the average temperature? What was the range in temperatures (highest minus the lowest)? Was there a mode? If you record for longer than a week, put the temperatures on a line plot. Were any of the temperature outliers (not fitting in with the others)?
- Sudoku- print and cut out a sudoku for your journal and complete it!
- Extreme tic tac toe- teach someone at home how to play extreme tic tac toe and keep the game boards in your notebook. Have a family/friends tournament if there are enough people around to play!
- Geometry- Go on a continuous geometry scavenger hunt. Take photos of different geometry concepts, print them out, glue them into your math journal and write what they are showing. See a tree branch that connects to the trunk forming an acute angle? See symmetry out in nature? Do you see things that are parallel or perpendicular? Are there any 2-D or 3-D shapes you see? Include angles, rays, parallel lines, perpendicular lines, shapes, lines intersecting, etc. Be observant!

Feel free to come up with your own ideas. I can't wait to see all the fun ways you have interacted with math this summer! If you have any questions, please email me [kharp@themeadowbrookschool.org](mailto:kharp@themeadowbrookschool.org). Feel free to send me a picture of an entry you are extra proud of and excited to share!

Thank you for your help and support in your child's education.  
Have a great summer!

Kelsey Harp  
Upper School Math Teacher  
Math Support & Enrichment Teacher