



Welcome to Sixth Grade at Gulf Coast Charter Academy South!

The GCCAS mission is to foster pride in academic achievement for all students, coupled with a concerted effort focused on the ELL (English Language Learner) population, through STEM Model (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) learning opportunities, resulting in higher student learning outcomes, concurrently with teaching lifelong fitness and developing the students' creative ability. We strive to provide the students with an environment to learn and be successful in a safe and orderly school.

The following syllabus will help guide you through the school year. Contained within these pages will be major classroom procedures, guidelines for good behavior, a general layout for our school year (subject to change without notice), and many other helpful pieces of information.

First, allow me to share with you some important information that you and the adults at home may want to make note of:

Name: **Ms. Mandie Rainwater**

Email: **mrainwater@gccas.org**

Class Website: **www.msrainwaters6thgrade.weebly.com**

Phone: **239-784-1539**

You should contact me via email for the fastest response, but please note that it may take up to 24 hours for a response.

This year I will be your primary math and social studies teacher. I will also be partnering with Mrs. Lukomski to instruct you in reading.

Each day's lesson plan will focus on a number of state adopted next generation sunshine standards as well as the newly adopted common core standards. These lessons will also include activities that will be fun, intellectually stimulating, and thought provoking. In order for students to get the most out of every lesson, I ask that the website be checked regularly, students be well rested for school, and be at school. I am not here to punish students or to try and "fail" anyone. If you find that something is unclear, appears difficult, or that you just need some help, PLEASE COME AND TALK TO ME! As sixth graders, you are responsible for your work. You will get great grades if you earn them, and you will earn them by keeping up with your studies. Do not procrastinate.

A list of school supplies was placed on the www.GCCAS.org website as well as on our class website. If you are having difficulty obtaining school supplies, please let me know (in a private conversation or by email) and I will help you as best as I can.

Now, let's go into some of the procedures, guidelines, and other "technical" stuff.

Classroom Procedures:

It is important that we all know the various procedures to get through the day. As a middle schooler, it will be your job to be independent and understand what is expected of you on a daily basis. Some of these procedures we will only use occasionally (fire drill, visitors, etc...) but others we will use frequently. We will practice these procedures during the first few days of school so that we all understand what is expected.

1. Entering the classroom: Most every day when you enter the class there will be a bell ringer on the board. You are to immediately put your things in the designated area, gather your materials, go to your desk and begin working on the question(s).
2. Required materials: You should have your appropriate notebook/ textbook/ workbook, two sharpened pencils, a working black or blue pen, a red pen, and paper at your desk. If you should need additional materials it will be listed with the bell ringer question. Place your backpack on the back of your chair or under it.
3. Turning in homework: There are special baskets for homework (one for math, one for social studies, and one for make-up work) where you should put any assignments due. Make sure you have the proper heading on your paper (procedure #7. If you have not done your homework, please see procedure #8b.)
4. The Pledge of Allegiance: Every morning the school will stand and recite The Pledge. Unless you have a request to abstain on file in the office, you will stand with your right hand over your heart next to your seat and recite The Pledge. You will remain standing until instructed to sit down.
5. Requesting to leave the classroom: If you need to leave the room for the restroom or to get a quick drink, you should raise three fingers, wait for me to nod that you can go, sign the restroom log, take a pass, and leave quietly and return as quickly as you can.
 - a. In Case of an Emergency: If you feel sick and need to leave the room immediately, please raise both hands and leave straight for the restroom. Grab the trash can next to the restroom log if you need to carry with you. I will send another student to check on you and report back to me. A decision will be made to call your parents.
6. When I need your attention: There will be times during the school day that you may be working in groups or may be talking and I need your attention. When you hear "Who lives in a pineapple under the sea?" You should stop talking, face me, answer "SpongeBob Squarepants!" and be ready to listen.
7. Heading your papers: To help make it easier to check and grade papers, I request that all headings on the papers be the same. On the right side of your paper place your first and last name on the first line. On the second line write the date the assignment is given (numerically is fine). On the third line list the subject.
 - a. Example:



8. Homework: **Any unfinished classwork becomes homework, unless otherwise stated.** But, to help reduce homework, we will work to complete classwork in class. Additionally, you may be assigned a variety of types of homework that may include worksheets, reading, watching a video (using YouTube or other free service), long term projects, etc... Due dates will typically be the following class meeting after the assignment is made (except for projects). If it is not, you will be notified.
 - a. If you are absent: If you were absent, the previous day's assignments will be in the "We Missed You" binder located on the book shelf. There will be copies of any print outs that the class was given, lists of readings, etc. After you have gotten the assignment from the binder, look it over. If you have a question, ask a classmate. If you still have a question, ask a different classmate. Finally if they cannot answer your question, please ask me. Sadly, if you missed a class where a group assignment was given and a grade taken in class you cannot make that up. It is vital that you try to be in class every day. All make up work is due the following day, unless permission for extended time is given. Place any notes from home about your absence in the communication basket on my desk.
 - b. If you did not complete your homework: **To receive full credit assignments are due, completed at the start of class the day after assigned.** If you did not complete your work you must fill out the "pink slip" from the pink slip binder and placed in the communication basket on my desk. You must fill this form out completely and honestly, it will be kept on file. You may turn your work in the following day, but you will not receive full credit. If work would have earned an A grade, you cannot get above a B, B work no higher than a C, and so on. If you turn in work two days late you cannot earn a grade higher than a C for A work, and after 3 days it will not be accepted. You will receive no credit if you copy someone else's work.
9. Getting into groups: We will be working in groups from time to time. Sometimes you will be allowed to choose your own groups and other times I will place you into groups. There will be no negative noises made when placed in groups; we should be polite and courteous at all times to one another. Once groups have been established move with all necessary materials to designated group location and begin work. If the activity requires desks to be moved, do so quickly and be mindful of others around you. At the conclusion of the group activity, return all furniture to original positions and return to your assigned seats.
10. Assigned seats: You will be assigned to a seat within the classroom. These seats can be changed at any time, so please do not get upset or feel like I am picking on you if I move you around. Do not expect the classroom to look the same all the time. Change is good. However, you should not sit in a seat that you have not been assigned to without permission.
11. Collecting work finished in class: We will finish a lot of our work during the class period. Please hold all papers until I ask for them to be collected. Please have your paper heading facing up. All papers will be given to one person in the group and I will come and collect them.
12. Visitor to the class: From time to time we will have people coming into our classroom. Sometimes they will be speaking to us and other times they will be here to watch. If I know in advance that they are coming, I will let you know, but sometimes it will be a surprise. When a visitor enters the room, please continue working on the task you are assigned (group work,

taking notes, seat work, etc...). If instructed we will welcome them as a class. Please remain in your seat or group. You should be on your best behavior. More often than not the visitor is there to observe me more than you. If the visitors walk around the classroom (while we are working in groups) and asks you a question, please answer them as best as possible and politely.

13. Helping one another: As part of a classroom community we should help one another. If you need help ask one of your classmates for help, as long as I am not lecturing, giving directions, or otherwise talking to the class as a whole. If you see another student who needs help, ask them if you can be of service. If you find that you need my help, raise **one finger** in the air. There is no need to wave it or call out my name; I will get to you as soon as possible.
 - a. Questions: You will have access to Post-It notes throughout the class time. If you have a question and are afraid I may not get to you before you forget it, write it on the Post-It and stick it to the question board.
14. Participating in class: Each lesson will be as interesting as you make it. To help make the learning fun, I really want to hear what you each think about the topics. We can learn a lot more when we all participate. However, we can't all talk at once, so we should raise our hands and not call out or shout during class. If you would like to contribute to the class discussion, lecture, debate, ask a question, answer a question, or need clarification, please **raise your whole hand (all five fingers)** and wait until I call on you. I will not call on students who shout out, jump out of their seat, or are disturbing the classroom.
15. Changing class or leaving for the day: When it is time to leave class remember to return all materials to their proper place. Collect all of your belongings and return them to your backpack. Place all trash in the appropriate trash can (recyclables go in the recycle bin). Do not toss trash from across the room. Make sure your desk is clean, in its place, and ready for the next class. If there is a chair separate from the desk, please push it in.
16. Lost and found: I will make every effort to remind you to take something with you, but sometimes we just forget. I will look after each class for items left behind, I ask you to do the same when you come into class. If you find something that doesn't belong to you, please place it in the lost and found area unless it looks valuable (money, cell phone, calculator, jewelry, etc...). If you believe it is valuable or are unsure, please give the item to me and I will decide where it should be place. Valuables will stay with me. If you have lost something, please look through the lost and found area first and then ask a friend if they have seen it, and lastly ask me. If it is valuable, ask me immediately. To reduce the risk of losing something valuable, please leave it at home.
17. If you finish an assignment early: If you finish an assignment early you may take out a book to read or you may work on homework. Please be respectful of the other students around you who are still working.
18. Drills: We will have a number of occasions where there will be drills of some kind; fire, tornado, code red, etc... I expect you to each follow the specific direction given for the drill. In the event of an actual emergency, follow all procedures practiced for that particular emergency. Those procedures are listed in the school handbook and we will become familiar with them.
19. Respect others property: If you borrow something, either from me or one of your classmates, please be respectful and do not damage it. It is your responsibility to care for others things,

including school books, library books, and class materials, so that they last as long as possible and as many students as possible get to use them. How would you feel if someone damaged an item you loaned them?

20. Moving in the hallway: Any time you are in the hallway (going to the restroom, another classroom or the cafeteria) you should not run, you should have a hall pass, and you must be respectful of students who are in class by being quiet and staying off the walls. We should be able to walk through the building without being noticed. (Ninja mode!)
21. Specials: Every afternoon we will be going to either art/music or PE.
 - a. PE: As sixth graders you will dress out for PE. You are expected to have with you on PE days your spirit t-shirt and black gym shorts (available at many retailers). Our PE time is late in the school day. You may want to have a refillable water bottle to keep in your backpack for afterward. You will not come back to class after your special. You will be dismissed to your appropriate area for time to go home. You will dress out in the restrooms across from the principal's office. Dressing should be done swiftly and safely. As soon as clothes are changed you should report back to the hallway. (If you would like, you may wear your PE shirt under your school polo. However, you must remain in dress code throughout the school day.)
 - b. Art/Music: On other days you will have Art/Music. You should arrive at the art room ready to leave for the day.
22. Changing classes: As sixth graders we will be changing classes daily. The schedule has been devised so that you will have two-three classes with me and two-three classes with Mrs. Lukomski and your specials. In order to make the transition between classes as smooth as possible, it is important that you keep your work area neat and your supplies put away when not in use. You will be given enough time to gather your items, clean up your groups, and transition into the next classroom. **The clock does not dismiss class, I do.** You should not pack up early.

Classroom Guidelines:

You are sixth graders and, with that title, come certain expectations for behaviors. We will all be courteous and positive in our interactions with one another and because that is expected we do not need a lot of rules. In this class we have guidelines that you should follow. They are:

1. Follow all classroom/ GCCAS procedures/guidelines.
2. Be mindful of the words you are using.
3. Keep unnecessary items in backpacks or at home.
4. Respect all classroom/school/personal materials.
5. Do the best you can every day.

Consequences: (This section is intentionally left blank. After reading the class guidelines, sixth graders will discuss appropriate consequences for when they **choose** to not follow the guidelines. There should be student handwriting in this section.)

Grading Policy:

Grades are earned not given. You can achieve the best grades possible by completing work in a timely manner, participating in class, and doing the best you can every day. To get the best grades possible takes a commitment from all three parties involved. Students must be prepared to stay after school and seek help from me when needed and complete their homework/classwork on time. Parents must provide a quiet atmosphere and appropriate help at home, but not doing the work for students. I will stay after school to help students who request time, help students learn how to find answers, and encourage them to do their best. While I may occasionally offer extra credit, it is not the norm. You should not expect to achieve high marks or meet high expectations by doing extra credit.

- A- 100-90
- B- 89-80
- C- 79-70
- D- 69-60
- F - 60 and below

You will be graded on class participation, homework, quizzes, projects and tests. Participation grades will count 1 (one) time. Homework and quizzes will count 2 (two) times, and projects and tests will count 3 (three) times.

The Portfolio:

All year we will be creating a portfolio during specified times. This portfolio will be a way to showcase your best work to loved ones, class mates, visitors, and more importantly yourself! The work you place in your portfolio should be your best work from Math, Social Studies,

Science, Language Arts, and Reading for the quarter. You will also include examples from Art/Music and PE. The portfolio will be an ongoing in class project and will count as a grade for keeping it up to date each quarter. (This is the fifth notebook on the supply list.) There will be more information about portfolios to come.

Technology used for communication:

This year I will be using Remind101 and Edmodo for increased communication and help with homework. Using these technology heavy services will require permission from parents to be on file, a signed contract for how to communicate with peers on file, and the necessary technology to participate. THESE ARE NOT REQUIRED!!! However, many students and teachers alike, enjoy the added flexibility of these services. You will find permission forms, user guides, and code of conduct in the folder you were given at open house or Monday morning if you missed open house.

Remind101: Remind101 is a service that provides a safe way for teachers to text message or email students and parents. Using Remind101, teachers can engage their students and parents more effectively. There was a separate instructional page and permission slip that went home in the packet. If you need another copy, it can be downloaded from the class website or email me and I will send you a copy. Students with devices that can receive text messages, as well as parents, are invited to sign up for periodic updates, important announcements, and deadline reminders. (I will not overload your SMS service!)

Edmodo: Edmodo is designed to get students excited about learning in a familiar environment. On Edmodo, teachers can continue classroom discussions online, give polls to check for student understanding, and award badges to individual students based on performance or behavior. Students can also help one another with homework and have discussion in a closed, safe environment. More information about Edmodo was also in your packets.

Philanthropy (Giving Back):

During the year there will be many opportunities for us to make a difference in our community and around the globe. Some opportunities will ask of your time, maybe to help start a garden, while others may ask you to help raise money. All philanthropic endeavors are not required. However, some may garner extra credit...

One thing we will be participating in will be the UNICEF program "Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF." As the name tells us, it will be close to Halloween and more information, including permission slips, will come home closer to that time.

Extra Credit/Publication Opportunity:

A few years back the state of Florida began the transition to the common core standards. These standards place an emphasis on writing (even in math!). To help foster good authors of works of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry I am inviting each sixth grade student to spend the year writing for publication. Students can start a short story, interview a member of the community (think senior members), or create an original piece of poetry and polish it toward publication in a classroom magazine. I will be compiling these manuscripts, asking students to help illustrate (original artwork or photographic images) and having the magazine printed for classroom/school display, as well as nominally priced copy available for purchase by parents, family members, friends, and other members of the school. Since some people will be paying for this magazine (any proceeds going to the next year's publication) we will work intensely on the students putting their best work forward. More details will be coming home on this unique opportunity and any students interested should notify me that they want to be published! I can help guide, answer questions, read drafts, and provide feedback for improvement. After the winter break, there will also be after school sessions for work shopping, guest speakers, and more. If students feel they cannot write, we will also be working on digitizing, formatting, and the more technical aspects of the project after the winter break. All students who participate will have credit in the magazine for their efforts. (Update: A grant has been submitted to Collier County Education Foundation to fund a copy for every sixth grader. Let's keep our fingers crossed!)

Parents,

Please ask your student to talk with you about this syllabus, including the procedures, guidelines, and consequences sections. It is vital that all students understand the expectations for the classroom. After they have talked with you about this syllabus, please sign and return the entire document to class. The syllabus will be kept in one of their binders and the signature page will be kept on file.

Thank you for entrusting GCCAS and myself with the education of your child and our future. I look forward to working together throughout the year toward the most successful year yet!

Sincerely,

Ms. Rainwater

We have read and understand the syllabus.

Student printed name: _____

Student signature: _____

Parent(s) printed name(s): _____

Parent(s) signature(s): _____

Date: _____