

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Communication between students, teachers, and parents is key! There are many opportunities listed below to help stay connected and I hope you will take advantage of all of them.

Class Website



You may use the class website to subscribe to my class updates, find helpful tools, including downloadable documents like the reading log, and read student work. I encourage you to visit often for updates at: <http://mrsburgesclass.weebly.com>

E-mail

If there are ever any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me through e-mail at: beth.burge@spencer.kyschools.us

Parent/Guardian To Do List

Please stay connected with your child's work by completing the following:

1. Subscribe to My Class Updates.

I send out class information using my website (<http://mrsburgesclass.weebly.com>). Please go to the website to subscribe to my updates using your e-mail address. Once you subscribe updates will be sent directly to your e-mail.

2. Access Infinite Campus

You may use IC to view grades, so check with SCMS or the Board of Education to receive your log-in information. Also, please make sure all information is correct in case I need to contact you.

3. Check & Sign Your Child's Agenda

Weekly assignments are filled out at the beginning of the week in my class. Because agendas are an important organizational tool and help students stay accountable to their work, a student may receive a demerit if an agenda is not brought to class or signed by a parent/guardian.

4. Sign & Return this Classroom Guide

Review the classroom guide with your child. Sign the "Parent Signature" on the back and return it to school for a participation grade.

I look forwards to working with you and your child over the school year!

Rewards

Grizzly Bucks

Sixth graders participate in a token economy system called Grizzly Bucks. Throughout the year you have opportunities to earn Grizzly Bucks and participate in auctions just for doing your job-being a student. Auctions are held throughout the school year and allow you to place bids on prizes with the money you've earned. However, if you don't do your job well, you may lose your money. The chart below describes ways to earn and lose money.

Earnings	Expenditures
Completed Assignment	Pencil Rental
"A" on Assessment	Tardy
Display of Grizzly Character	Need to Leave the Classroom
T-Shirt Friday	Cell Phone

Student Jobs

Jobs rotate monthly and include office manager, work returner, work collector, & substitute. You will earn \$100 a month for a job well done.

Consequences

Demerits

If you are doing your job well, you don't need to worry about demerits. You may earn demerits for not meeting expectations, including tardies, missing assignments, inappropriate classroom conduct, etc.

Demerits are totaled weekly by all teachers. If you earn 5 demerits in one week, you will miss freedom time. The sixth grade team leader will also contact your parents and if you continue to earn 5 or more demerits a week, there will be further consequences.

In my classroom, if your behavior is continuous or so severe that you disrupt the educational process you may go to an:

1. In-Class Time Out,
2. In-School Detention (also known as 3D),
3. After School Detention (ASD), or
4. Administrator.

Mrs. Burge's Classroom Guide

6th Grade Language Arts



Parent Signature

Please review the classroom guide with your child. Sign & date below to return the guide for a participation grade.

Student Name

Parent Signature

Date

Assignment #1

Summer Reading Challenge



By Friday, August 23rd, 2013, all middle school students are to have read and scored a passing Accelerated Reader quiz. Students may choose a reading level appropriate book for this assignment.

Get Organized

Language Arts Binder

Stay organized by using your language arts binder and creating the following tab dividers:

1. Progress Monitoring
2. Notes
3. Journal
4. Writing Pieces
5. Extra Paper



Stay organized and be prepared for binder and folder checks!

Language Arts Folder

The language arts folder is divided into a home (left) and school (right) side to ensure paperwork makes it safely to the correct place.

Stay organized and be prepared for binder and folder checks!

Electronics Welcome... with Caution

Yes, electronic devices are welcome. This includes any internet or note taking device- iPad, iPod, Kendall, etc. You are able to use these devices for note taking, researching, and other class activities. However, there are consequences set in place if electronic devices are a disruption to the learning process.



Spelling Quizzes

Expect a spelling quiz every full five-day school week. Each quiz consists of 8 new spelling words and 2 review words from previous quizzes.

Daily Expectations

Student Job

Your full time job is to be a sixth grade student. In order to do your job well you need to be prepared, work hard, and maintain a good attitude. It's up to *you* to take ownership of your academics and help make this a productive year.

Classroom Do's

1. Make it a great day!
2. Always try your best.
3. Leave the drama with the llama.
4. Be on-task & prepared for learning.
5. Be respectful of classmates & school staff.



What do I bring to class?

1. Agenda
2. Language Arts Binder
3. Library Books
4. Paper & Writing Utensil

How do I enter the classroom?

You are expected to enter my classroom the same way you would enter my home if I invited you to dinner- on time & quietly. If students or an adult is still in the room patiently wait outside until clear.

How do I prepare for class?

Complete the following *before* class begins:

1. Sharpen pencils.
2. Complete the Flashback & instructions on the board.
3. Get out class materials & assignments.
4. Write down assignments in your agenda.

Raising Your Hand

We use hand signals to communicate in our classroom. Use the following signals:

- Index Finger= Answer or Response
- 2 Fingers= Question or Comment
- 3 Fingers= Need to Leave the Classroom



How do I leave the classroom?

The teacher, not the bell, dismisses the class. At that time fix desk creep & pick up trash.

How to Get an "A"

Grading System

Your final grade is made up of the following:
Assessments 40% (Tests, AR, & Papers)
Homework 30%
Classroom Participation 30%

Reading Goals & Accelerated Reader

Throughout the year you will take reading tests to determine your reading level. Your AR point goal is based on your reading level and reading 30 minutes each day for 9 weeks, so goals will differ amongst students.

It is very important to keep up with up your reading throughout the year! Accelerated Reader makes up 3 grades per quarter:

By each midterm you need to have met 50% of your AR point goal. You will receive a 50 point homework grade based on the percentage of AR points met at midterm. For example, if you earned 50% or more of your point goal, then you earned 50 points on the homework assignment. Or, if you earned 25% of your point goal, then you earned 25 points on your homework assignment.

At the end of each quarter you will receive 2 assessment grades for Accelerated Reader- 1) Quiz Average and 2) Percent of Point Goal Met. Your goal is at least an 85% quiz average and 100% of your point goal met.

Late Work Policy

Homework is used to help you reach your reading and writing goals. It is crucial to your academic development (and grade!) that you take time to complete and turn in your work. If homework is turned in late, you will automatically lose half of the total points, so that the highest percentage earned is a 50% on the assignment.

Writing Assignment Redo Policy

You will go through the steps of the writing process in class to create quality writing pieces. If your time is spent wisely, you will do well. However, be aware of the Redo Policy: If you turn in a paper that earns less than a 70%, you will redo the assignment to earn the highest possible grade of a 70%.

Make Up Work

When absent, check the assignment calendar & your peers for missed class work. It's up to you to find out what you've missed!