



Van Sickle Academy Middle school | 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 2020-2021

REMOTE LEARNING | 6TH GRADE | SEPTEMBER 2020 |



Welcome to middle school! We are lucky and excited to have you as students.



Even though learning will look different this year, we still have set expectations to make the process more productive for everyone.

#### EXPECTATIONS

- Everyone is expected to be logged in on time and ready to work.
- Everyone is expected to create their own learning environment. We ask that you are seated, with no distractions, and dressed appropriately. We will also enforce phone rules.



- You will be responsible for your work, we will be flexible in receiving late work but we will deduct points.
- Proper behavior is expected and the consequences will be clearly communicated. (1<sup>st</sup> offense, you will be muted. 2<sup>nd</sup> offense, you will have a 1:1 conversation with the teacher, 3<sup>rd</sup> offense, you will be booted from the lesson and your parents will be called).



## **Meet the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Team**

### **MATH**

Welcome to Van Sickle Academy! I am Ms. Zerfas and I will be your math teacher this year. Like you I am also new to this school. I have been teaching math for 5 years in Springfield. I am a dedicated sports fan of all the Boston teams. Even though we are starting the year remote I am looking forward to getting to know you.

In sixth grade, students learn key concepts along the progression towards algebra. Ratios and proportions are a new domain of study, where students explore and reason with ratios and rates in order to solve real world application problems. Sixth graders will also investigate negative numbers for the first time, the introduction of negative numbers allows students to begin graphing in all four quadrants of the co-ordinate plane. Sixth graders adapt their knowledge numerical expressions to begin writing algebraic expressions. As students progress in writing expressions they also begin to solve one-step equations and inequalities. Students will also continue their study of area and volume from fifth grade and learn further about various polygons and three-dimensional shapes. Our curriculum concludes with introducing how statistics can be used to better understand data about our world.

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### **SCIENCE**

Hello middle schoolers! I am Ms. Velez and I will be your Science teacher. I am excited to get to know you and impart my love of science to all of you. As a former scientist, my top priority is to get you guys to think like a scientist and become hands on learners. During 6<sup>th</sup> grade, we will explore topics such as Chemical Reactions, Gravity, The History of the Earth, Evolution, Fossil, The Human Body, and many more. The number one rule in my classroom will be respect; to each other, our differences, and our environment.

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### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Hi! My name is Mr. Leecock. This year in Social Studies, we will learn about the earliest humans, what life was like for them and what changed to allow them to end a nomadic lifestyle to establish the 1<sup>st</sup> communities! We will study the people and regions of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Phoenicia, Israel, the Arabian Peninsula, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Central & South America. We will also learn about their cultures and achievements including inventions that have an impact on our lives today.

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## **ELA**

Hello, my name is Miss Alvarez. I teach English Language Arts. Over the year we'll be studying common themes in literature as well as writing techniques.

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## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

My name is Mrs. Gates. I am a special education teacher and will be providingg supports to those students on Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

Email: [gatesp@springfieldpublicschools.com](mailto:gatesp@springfieldpublicschools.com)

## **PE**

Hello, my name is Ms. McGaughey, I am one of the Physical Education teachers here at Van Sickle Academy. As a P.E. teacher, my first and foremost goal is to introduce students to an active and healthy lifestyle. It is especially important during remote learning with added screen time for me to provide opportunities for students to be active, de-stress, and have fun while learning about and practicing healthy habits. I look forward to meeting you all.

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## **Tips for Online Learning Success:**



- ▶ When it comes to remote learning, you need to have the discipline to sit down and say, "I am going to work on this," as well as the dedication to actually follow through. To get real value out of your education, you must "show up" (both in terms of attendance and participation). Treat your online classes the same way you would to face-to-face classes and you'll be off to the right start.
  
- ▶ Hold yourself accountable. Set goals at the beginning of the year, and check in with yourself and your teacher often. If you're having trouble holding yourself responsible, check-in with a friend. By being organized, proactive, and self-aware.



### **Website:**

<http://spsvsma.ss18.sharpschool.com>



### **Contact:**

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