

Dear Parent:

Welcome to Dixon Middle School. We are concerned about the educational welfare of our students, and know that you are equally concerned. We are very excited and eager to get the new school year off to a great start. There are plenty of planned activities and exercises that will make your child's 6th grade experience not only educational, but also very enjoyable. We look forward to working with you and your child in making the first year in middle school an experience they will always cherish.

Middle school can be a big adjustment because our expectations are extremely high and require a concentrated effort from every student. Your child should have no trouble adjusting if he/she comes to Dixon Middle School with the following characteristics:

- RESPECT for policies, procedures, property, self and others
- WILLINGNESS and motivation towards a desire to learn and be successful
- LISTENING, focusing, and the ability to follow both written and spoken directions
- ABIDE by posted and written classroom and school rules
- MASTERY of the following math skills:
 - Adding/subtracting whole numbers of up to 6 digit numbers with regrouping
 - Multiplication/division facts (all memorized)
 - Multiplication of up to 3 digits by 3 digits
 - Long division of up to 4 digits by 2 digits
 - Place-value up to hundred millions
 - Metric and customary measurements memorized
 - Telling time on a regular wall clock (not digital)
- MASTERY of the following reading skills:
 - Inferences
 - Fact/Opinion
 - Reading for significant details
 - Main Idea
 - Drawing Conclusions
 - Context clues
 - Vocabulary

It would be very helpful if you could, over the summer vacation, reinforce these skills that your child should have mastered as a fifth grade student. The mastery of the above math and reading skills will be of tremendous value to your child and enhance the probability of becoming a successful 6th grade student. It will be assumed that when your child comes to the 6th grade, as a student possesses the necessary skills to transition smoothly into the 6th grade curriculum. There is very little time to remediate or re-teach concepts that were to be mastered at the elementary level.

The following is a list of required materials your child will need for the 6th grade school year. Additional supplies may be requested throughout the new school year to complete major projects. Notification of these special supplies will be requested through assignments written in your child's agenda, letters or notifications sent home, or on the teacher's web site.

Supply List

2 Large boxes of #2 pencils

Folders with pockets (At least 6, one per subject for the school year)

1 Three Ring Binder with Loose-leaf notebook paper

(Used to store subject folders and keep subject material separated and tracked, zipper preferred)

4 Composition books (One for Daily Word Problem in math, language arts DOL, Science and Social Studies)

3 Packages of 500 sheet white 201b-10m 8.5" X 11" paper (Accelerated Math program and progress reports)

Additional Suggested/Requested Materials:

Thumb or Jump Drive (recommended 2g or 4g)

Black or blue pens with erasers

Colored pencils (Primary colors)

Scissors (Safety)

Ruler

Protractor

Glue Sticks

Compass

3 Boxes of Kleenex (To be given to student's EACH teacher)

Dry Erase markers (any color) and eraser (for Accelerated Math white board work and replaced as student's needs require)

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Reading is the best way to increase reading skills! Please ensure your child is reading over the summer by visiting the local library or bookstore. A list of reading titles is provided below as part of plans for summer reading for the sixth grade. According to your child's performance on the North Carolina End-of-Grade Tests, he/she should be able to read any of these titles at an appropriate level of challenge for a young reader. Librarians, bookstore owners, and others can help you locate similar books that match your child's interests and are at an appropriate reading level. Please encourage your child/children to read two or three of these books over the summer. Accelerated reading tests can be taken in the Dixon Middle School Library at the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>LEVELS</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
Sarah Bishop	Scott O'Dell	4.9	7.0
Miriam's Well	Lois Ruby	5.2	10.0
Souder	William H. Armstrong	5.3	3.0
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry	Mildred D. Taylor	5.7	10.0
Searching for Dragons	Patricia C. Wrede	5.3	9.0
A Solitary Blue	Cynthia Voigt	5.3	11.0
Long Journey Home	Julius Lester	N/A	N/A
Julie of the Wolves	Jean Craighead George	5.8	6.0
The Secret Garden	Frances Hodgson Burnett	6.3	13.0
Mama, I Want to Sing	Vy Higginsen & Tonya Bolden	5.7	6.0
Island of the Blue Dolphins	Scott O'Dell	5.4	6.0
The Grey King	Susan Cooper	6.2	9.0
Anne of Green Gables	L. M. Montgomery	7.3	17.0
Jackaroo	Cynthia Voigt	5.6	14.0
Rosa Parks: My Story	Rosa Parks	6.2	6.0
Anne of Avonlea	L. M. Montgomery	8.6	16.0
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde/ Saddleback	Robert Louis Stevenson	9.5/4.4	5.0/2
Exploring the Titanic	Robert Ballard	6.6	3.0
Moccasin Trail	Eloise Jarvis McGraw	5.8	12.0

We look forward to having your child in the 6th grade. If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at (910) 347-2738.

Sincerely,
6th Grade Teachers