

First Quarter: Reading and Writing

Welcome to sixth grade! September will be a transition month as we discuss expectations, establish daily routines, and complete a few beginning of the year assessments. Our goal is to build a community of learners that work both collaboratively and independently to read, interpret, evaluate and create meaningful texts. We want students to become the kind of readers that have a hard time putting down their books and cannot wait until they find more time to read. Whether it is a fiction novel or a non-fiction magazine, we want students to love reading! Our job will be to ensure that students are creating meaning and thinking deeply about the texts they read. We consider reading and writing to be different sides of the same coin...two processes that have strong connections to each other. You will hear your children (hopefully) talking about a text as both a reader and a writer. As a reader...What did I just read? What was the author trying to say? As a writer...HOW did the author say it? WHY did the author write it that way? Is there a better way to share that same idea? Drawing the connection between reading and writing will help your child create more meaning and think deeply about the text.

If we have learned anything in the classroom, it is to expect the unexpected. All summer we searched for SOMETHING that help us make sense out of some of the more abstract concepts 6th graders need to understand and apply. We are happy to say that we stumbled upon a theme that will work with our reading and writing skills and capture the attention of our students: FOOD. (It was right in front of us all summer!!! Maybe too much!) One of the first concepts we will introduce in September is the idea of sharing our critiques of books with each other through accountable talk. Of course, our theme led us to food critics and the role they play in sharing valuable information in a responsible and meaningful way. Look here in the coming weeks for uploads of anchor charts and other explanations of the concepts we introduce in class.