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Principal

Mary King
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De Soto Unified School District 232
Monticello Trails Middle School

6100 Monticello Rd.
Shawnee, KS 66226

Kelly Robinson
School Improvement Specialist

Cara Olson
Stuart Keltner
Counselors



Dear 6th South Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year at Monticello Trails Middle School. We anticipate an exciting year! Working together, we can provide your child with opportunities for academic and social growth.

Communication is the key to any good relationship. Feel free to reach out to us whenever you have a question or concern regarding your child's education. **If your email needs to be updated, please contact the MTMS office to get your contact information updated in Skyward.** Please feel free to call or email us whenever you have a question or concern regarding your child's education.

A copy of the sixth grade policies and course guidelines are included in this team packet. Please take time to review these procedures with your child. We look forward to working with you and your sixth grader this year at Monticello Trails Middle School.

Sincerely,

6th South Team

Mrs. Alicia Goetting - Social Studies agoetting@usd232.org *Team leader

Ms. Isabel Crain- Math icrain@usd232.org *Team leader

Mr. Tyler Watts - Science tyler.watts@usd232.org

Ms. Sarah Gilbert - ELA sgilbert@usd232.org

Mrs. Sarah Katsbulas - Pathways skatsbulas@usd232.org

****Please contact team leader with any general questions/concerns***

Ways Of The Wolf - RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, SAFE
The purpose of Monticello Trails Middle School is to educate and empower students to become responsible citizens.

Team Policies

Key Websites to Bookmark:

- 1) Team Website
- 2) [Digital E-Genda](#)
- 3) [Parent Cheat Sheet](#)
- 4) [K12itc information](#)

Communication

-Please send content concerns to the content teacher.

-Email is the fastest mode of communication. We will communicate with you within twenty-four hours of initial contact. **Our plan period is from 9:45-10:30am.**

-You can also reach us through our district phone: **913-422-1100.**

Mr. Tyler Watts - Science tyler.watts@usd232.org ; ext. 3131

Ms. Isabel Crain - Math icrain@usd232.org ; ext. 3436

Ms. Sarah Gilbert -ELA sgilbert@usd232.org ; ext. 3208

Mrs. Alicia Goetting- Social Studies agoetting@usd232.org ; ext. 2295

Mrs. Sarah Katsbulas - Pathways skatsbulas@usd232.org ; ext. 2416

-Please direct general questions or concerns to Mrs. Goetting and she will communicate with the team.

Note: Per district policy, we are unable to communicate with parents via text message or social media.

-Our team will communicate with you weekly via Skyward Messenger. **Please be on the lookout for Skyward emails from Mrs. Goetting that will contain the major information from the team for the upcoming week.**

E-genda: [Link HERE](#)

Keeping an agenda is an important skill to help with organization and time management. To facilitate this, we have created an online tool known as the E-genda. This is where we post 1) a snapshot of the daily objective for all core classes, and 2) upcoming homework/due dates.

Location *Students will BOOKMARK THIS the first full week of school*

1. On team webpage
 - a. Accessing e-genda: mtms.usd232.org Click on TEAMS tab. Select 6 South.
2. Canvas
 - a. Under Modules for all teachers

Pairing the E-Genda with their Agenda

They will be required to write down assignments in the agenda through the first quarter.

- ☐ Completed work: When assignments are complete, they will draw a line through the completed work.

- ☐ If students have No Homework written, they should have the daily objective included. Many times you'll see assignments listed that are not due for immediately as we are trying to help them with time management.
- ☐ Missing work: Will be written at the bottom and highlighted.
- ☐ The E-genda will be projected in ELT, which provides them with another time to fill out their agenda at the end of the day.

Skyward: Digital Gradebook

Skyward reflects your student's grade for each class. **While assignments might generate a grade on Canvas, that score is not indicative of their overall grade in the course.** Skyward reflects assignments that have *already* been graded. We encourage checking Skyward on a weekly basis.

Skyward Codes

Code	Definition	How to Proceed
NHI	Not handed in. Typically accompanied by a score of zero.	The teacher has NOT received the assignment. The student might have completed it, but it did not get submitted. Please check with your child first. Encourage your child to send an email to their teacher first.
INC	Incomplete. Assignment was turned in, but it does not meet basic requirements.	Encourage your child to redo the assignment for a higher score or to reach out to the teacher and ask how to move forward.
LATE	Assignment was received, but not on time.	This will be accompanied by a reduction in the total grade. If it was received outside of the boundaries of the grading time frame, then it will remain a zero.
*	Not graded. Please assume we have the assignment.	Wait to contact the teacher. The teacher is in the process of entering grades.

Recommendation: Download the Skyward App!

Canvas: Digital Classroom

Canvas is essentially the digital version of your son or daughter's classroom. This is where they will go to access lessons, resources, and assignments. As a result, this is also where they will be required to submit assignments. We will provide video tutorials and guidance to help students know how to submit assignments.

How do I know if my student submitted their assignment? All assignments receive a timestamp. If your child did NOT receive a timestamp, they did NOT submit their assignment.

Want to know what's happening in Canvas?: We encourage you to get the pairing code from your student so you can be synced with their Canvas account. ([Click here for more information on parents connecting to canvas](#))

Student Absences

-Students are responsible for completing the work they missed while absent. With a large number of students, they need to approach their teachers to get caught up.

“Did I miss anything while I was gone?” Yes, yes you did.

When Absent:

- 1) Check the E-Genda to see what we've done that day.
- 2) Get on Canvas and complete anything that you can.
- 3) Email teachers with any questions you might have.

Absent for an extended period of time?

- 1) Communicate with the team so we can create a game plan to help get students caught up.
- 2) Stay after school the week upon your return to get caught up.

Team Grading

-All core classes will base grades off total points. Please note, the more intensive the assignment/assessment, the higher the point value.

LATE Assignments

-Assignments will receive a maximum deduction of 10% if submitted past the due date. All assignments for each unit are accepted up to the assessment day (end of unit/module).

Note: Absence policy still applies, but teachers will work with the student to help get them caught up.

-Once the assessment has been taken, assignments for that unit will remain a zero in the grade book. Retakes are per teacher discretion.

Missing Work

- ☐ If a student turns in an assignment past the due date, there will be a maximum deduction of 10% on the deserved grade.
- ☐ If an assignment is not turned in, the student will receive a zero on the assignment.
- ☐ If your student has missing work, they have the opportunity to attend Timberwolf Success Program (TSP) in the library from 3:05-4:30 Tuesday, Wednesday, and/or Thursday every week. There is no school transportation provided after the conclusion of TSP.

Behavior Expectations

Basic supplies needed every day:

- 1) Charged Macbook
- 2) Binder
- 3) Pencil
- 4) Agenda
- 5) Independent Reading Book (once we go to the library until the middle of May)

Behavior Consequences

See student handbook (student behavior expectations section) for behavior consequences.

Tardies

Students are expected to be in their class by the bell (unless they have a pass). If they arrive after the bell with no pass, they will be marked tardy.

USD 232 Middle School Class Tardy Policy

	Intervention
1st tardy	Warning
2nd tardy	Assigned consequence
3rd tardy	Assigned consequence and parent contact
4th tardy or more	Office referral resulting in disciplinary action

Lockers

- 6th grade WILL use lockers.
- 6th grade will NOT have backpacks in the classroom.
- Locker codes/combos can be accessed on Skyward (if students forget).

Technology Policies (building)

-There is a **zero-tolerance policy for cell-phones in the classroom**. The expectation is for cellphones to be powered OFF during the academic day. However, students will be allowed to check cell-phones during passing periods at their locker.

Emergency: Contact the office. They will get a hold of your child.

-MacBook integration and expectations will follow the student handbook. Please see the handbook for further information.

- Expectations: Charged computers, appropriate applications, and in their possession on a daily basis.
- It is their responsibility; they are to care for and protect their property in accordance with student policies.

- This is the Macbook they will have until they graduate high school. They need to care for it appropriately.

-Per Kansas testing protocol, **students are required to have WIRED earbuds/headphones** that are compatible with their Macbooks. **We do NOT use wireless headphones** as they are small and are easily misplaced/stolen. Whatever outside technology students bring to school, they are responsible for.

Technology Issues?

If your child experiences an issue with their MacBook, please contact **K12itc**. [Link to K12 Help Desk](#)

Phone: 816-382-4840.

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Students have all vital Macbook information written in their Agenda in their Cheat Sheet. This is glued on the inside of the front cover of the agenda. They will need this information when speaking with K12.

Social Studies Syllabus

6th Grade Social Studies: Ancient Civilizations

Teacher Contact



Alicia Goetting

Email-

agoetting@usd232.org

Phone-

422-1100 ex. 2295

Plan-

9:45-10:30

Course Objective:

The students will learn-

- **Characteristics of ancient civilizations including:** Geography, Religion, Social Structure, Government, Technology, Economy, Achievements, and Culture
- **The spread and transformation of culture and ideas**
- **Historical Processes i.e.:** Making a claim and supporting it with evidence, cause and effect, examining artifacts and creating a hypotheses.
- **Applying Content Knowledge to their own lives**

Course Materials:

✓Binder/Accordion File

✓Pencils

✓ Macbook (will not need this everyday)

✓Headphones/earbuds (will need with MacBook)

Other optional items :

*Colored pencils, markers, highlighters, notecards, and a glue stick.



Units of Study:

*Review Skills (Geography and Timelines)

*Early Humans and the Rise of Civilization

*Ancient Egypt and the Middle East

*Ancient India

*Ancient China

*Ancient Greece

*Ancient Rome



Course Evaluation:

Students will be graded by total points. Assessments and assignments are not weighted, however they will be worth different point values.

Grading Categories:

- Participation/Daily Work
- General Points
- Common Assignment



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WELCOME TO

Mr. Watts' Classroom



About Me

Hello! I am Mr. Watts and I teach 6th grade Science, which is Physics and Chemistry. I am married to Tara and a father to Kai - a 2nd grader at CCE. I have a science degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from KU. This is my 14th year teaching, and first year at MTMS. I co-lead my son's Cub Scout Den, and I coach his KC Fusion Soccer team. For fun, I enjoy reading, playing board games, and watching Star Wars and Marvel media. My goal is to inspire students to better understand their world through Science, and to do their best!.

Contact Me

Room 109

email:

tyler.watts@usd232.org

Please be aware I usually check my email as often as I can, but I cannot always get back to you right away. I will try to respond within 24 hours.

Welcome to Science!

This will be an exciting year where we will extend our current Science knowledge and practice working effectively with those around us. In 1st quarter we focus on measurement and scientific inquiry, in 2nd quarter we learn about chemistry, during 3rd quarter we learn about sound and light waves, and in 4th quarter we learn about physics! We learn through many hands-on activities and labs. We will complete experiments to demonstrate we understand each topic we learn!

Daily Supplies Needed

Students should always have a pencil and their Science folder/binder. Students need to be **curious** and ready to **learn!**

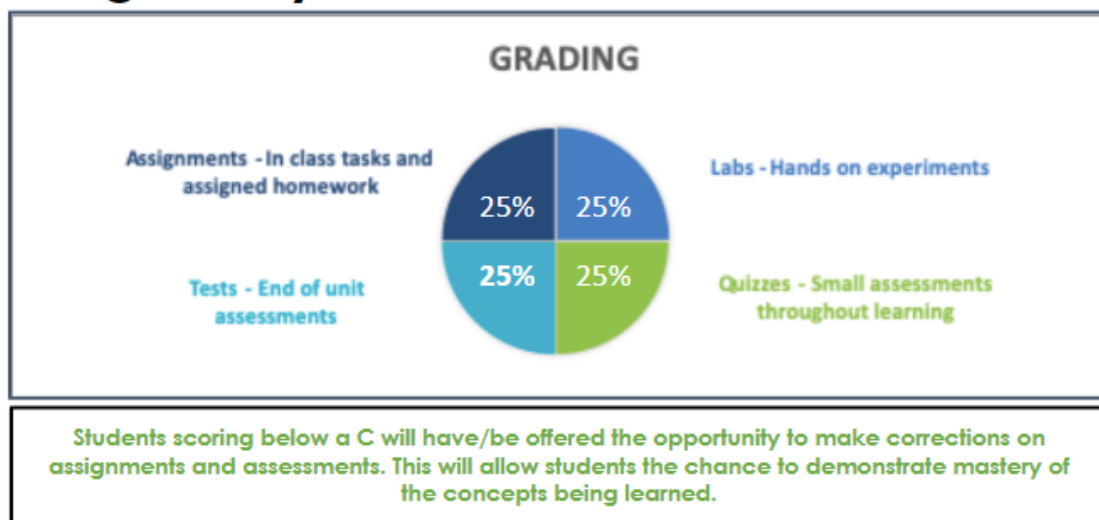
Behavior Expectations

Students are expected to abide by all class rules - being respectful, responsible, and safe.
CHAMPS

Technology In Our Classroom

No phones are allowed in class. Students will use their Macbook at times to **enhance learning.**

Grading Policy



Academic Help

You can (and should) ask for help anytime you need it. **A great time to ask for help is during ELT.** ELT is a time used mostly as a study hall to work on classwork and get help from teachers as you need it. Use it wisely!

You can also email me anytime (during the school day or when you are at home) with questions. I will answer as quickly as possible!

Behavior Policy

The basic expectation in this class is respect.

- You should respect your teacher by being a good listener, participating when asked, and giving your best.
- You should respect your peers by not being distracting, avoiding gossip, no leaving others out, and being a good teammate.

Safety is very important in this class. You will sign a safety contract and are expected to follow the guidelines discussed in class each day.

What happens if I can't/won't do these things?

1. Non-Verbal Cue
2. Verbal Redirection
3. Detention - Lunch, then after school
4. Parents and office are contacted.

Reference the CHAMPS cards for help in knowing how you should be acting!

English Language Arts (ELA)

2023-2024

Ms. Gilbert- sgilbert@usd232.org
6th Grade: South Room: 112

What will we learn?

- ☐ We will learn how to **think critically** while **reading** a wide variety of texts. Some texts will be **literary**, ranging from short stories to poetry to novels. Some texts will be **informational**, ranging from articles to nonfiction stories.
- ☐ We will use what we learn to generate **new knowledge** and express it through various forms of **writing** (narrative, argumentative, and expository) and **speaking** (presentations in both large and small group settings).

How will we learn?

Each of us has a unique experience, which allows everyone to bring their own strengths to the ELA classroom. This gift allows everyone to read the same story, yet interpret it differently.

As a result, we will focus on learning how to **defend our opinion/perspective with evidence** as well as engage in **open-minded discussions**. We will also take time to reflect and express our connections through the written and spoken word.

How will I be graded?

Grades are based on total points.

Points are divided into two main categories: **practice** & **demonstration of knowledge**.

Practice: Homework, discussion boards, participation, quizzes, etc.

- Yes, these can be redone (within a specific period of time).
- All practice is due before the demonstration of knowledge, otherwise it will remain a zero.

Quick Checks: These assignments are tasks that should take no more than 5 minutes. They are typically bell work, exit tickets, reflection, open-note review, or material check. Students who were physically present and *did not complete a quick check will not be able to make up these points at a later date.*

Demonstration of Knowledge: Long-term activities such as a project, paper, debate, tests, etc.

- No, these cannot be redone as they are extended activities.
- If these are not submitted on time, you will receive communication from your student and they will be asked to stay after school.

Extra Credit? This will be built into activities & **is NOT a separate grade.**

What is the focus each quarter?

<u>Quarter 1</u>	<u>Quarter 2</u>	<u>Quarter 3</u>	<u>Quarter 4</u>
→ Root Words → Literary Skills → Narrative Writing	→ MLA In-Text citations → Research → Text Structure → Expository Writing	→ Text Structure → Figurative Language → Argumentative Writing	→ Skill Review → Literary Analysis → Novel Study

Digital tools for learning:

- **Canvas** → Digital classroom. Platform will provide access to homework, resources, and digital assignments.
- **Google Drive** → Organization for resources and assignments. Google Docs is where we type our formal papers.
- **Destiny** → Digital library. Link is under the [Quick Links](#) page on the district website.
- **FlipGrid** → Tool for filming reflections and discussions.

This will require your Macbook to be charged daily!

Independent Reading Overview

Expectation: Students will be required to read **1 choice book** by the end of **each quarter**. Like any other skill, reading comprehension only improves through practice.

Book Requirement:

- 1) A new book (a book the student has not read before).
- 2) An appropriate reading level for the student.
- 3) At least 100 pages. **Only 1 book can be a graphic novel.*
- 4) Yes, audiobooks are allowed. However, we would like students to have the text to accompany the audio.

To help meet reading goals:

- 1) Their choice reading book will become a required supply after we go to the library. This means they are expected to have their book with them to read whenever they finish early in any class.
- 2) ELA starts daily with 5 minutes of silent reading.
- 3) We will go to our school library once a week.
- 4) Students should be reading in ELT when they have no homework.
- 5) Students have [access to Destiny](#), which is our school's digital library.
- 6) The JoCo Library will be making presentations to our students.

Incentive to read beyond the 3 books 1st semester:

Our school annually participates in the 40 book challenges. For our students who want to work towards that goal, we encourage them to read 20 books each semester. Each book read beyond the 3 required books is accompanied by a reward:

4-5 books: Scratcher card ranging in Wolf Track amount

6-10 books: Free ELT pass

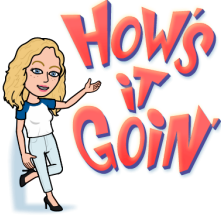
11-15 books: 1st in line lunch pass

16-20 books: Pick 3 friends to eat at cafe tables in the back of the cafeteria

20+ books: Get a choice QT drink delivered at lunch on the last day of the semester

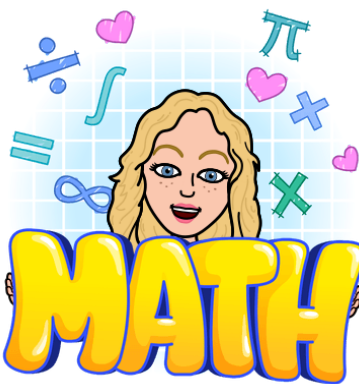
6th Grade South Math Course Outline

Ms. Isabel Crain

	<p>Contact Info:</p> <p>icrain@usd232.org</p> <p>Room 113</p> <p>Ext. 3436</p>	<p>Plan Time:</p> <p>9:45-10:30</p> <p>1:45-2:30</p>
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<p><u>Class Objectives:</u></p> <p>Using the Common Core State Standards, students will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them • Reason abstractly and quantitatively • Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others • Model mathematics • Use appropriate tools strategically • Attend to precision • Look for and make use of structure • Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning <p>*Link to 6th grade math goals</p>	<p><u>Units of Study:</u></p> <p>The Number System</p> <p>Ratios & Proportional Relationships</p> <p>Expressions & Equations</p> <p>Geometry</p> <p>Statistics & Probability</p> <p><u>Materials:</u></p> <p>Please have these on a daily basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer • Earbuds • Pencils • Math Notebook • Dry Erase Markers <p><u>1:1 MacBook:</u></p> <p>Students will be required to utilize their macbooks regularly to enhance math instruction and practice. It will be expected that students adhere to student guidelines and policies, as noted in the Technology Policy/Procedures document and the Acceptable Use Policy.</p>	<p><u>Tech Reminders:</u></p> <p>#1 All computers must be brought to school fully charged.</p> <p>#2 If computers are not fully charged, students are still accountable for all late/missing work.</p> <p>#3 The student macbook is not personal property. We will use them for educational purposes only.</p> <p><u>Canvas/ Online Materials:</u></p> <p>Canvas is the online learning platform (LMS) we will be using this year. This is where you will find course information for the class, including online materials. Please note that we will use our Canvas course page regularly, but the class will not be solely online. Practice work done on paper and on whiteboards will be essential for learning. It will be imperative that you pay attention to the 6 South Agenda.</p>
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<p><u>Grading Mission:</u></p> <p>In math class, we strive to ensure that academic reporting represents student learning and understanding of standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignments/ Practice Work will be utilized to grow students' understanding of the learning goal. • Quizzes will be utilized to monitor progress and influence instruction of the learning goal. • Assessments will be utilized to determine proficiency on each learning goal. <p><u>Practice Work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When practice work is assigned, the teacher has deemed the assignment essential for understanding the learning goal. It is expected that the student completes this work in preparation for the next day. • If the student does not come to class prepared, they are still required to complete the assignment and submit it late to help prepare for the final assessment. • Working lunch or time after school can be given if the student has repeated issues with submitting practice work. • I will also email home if this becomes an issue, but I encourage parents and students to view the Eagenda and Skyward on a daily/weekly basis. 	<p><u>Assignment Re-Do's:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is essential to know that the focus in math class is on learning each standard. • Reflection and re-doing is a big part of learning. • All assignments can be re-done to demonstrate better understanding of concepts. There is never a penalty. The new grade will replace the old. • Our hope is that by re-doing assignments before an assessment, students will be better prepared. • The STUDENT must initiate a request to redo with the teacher and re-submit the assignment by an agreed upon due date.
<p><u>Grading Principles:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differentiation of instruction is essential for student growth. • Students are given multiple opportunities to show mastery, therefore no extra credit is given. • Additional learning accompanied with practice must happen in order for a re-assessment to occur. • Students will be allowed multiple opportunities to demonstrate proficiency in various ways. • Practice work outside of the school day will be occasionally expected, though most work will be completed in ELT if students use time wisely. • Practice will be meaningful, purposeful, of high quality and aligned with learning goals. • Feedback will be given by the teacher (via practice work, quizzes, and verbal conversations). 		<p><u>Assessment Re-Do's:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a student wants to complete a re-assessment, the STUDENT must initiate a request with the teacher. <p>They will then need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make corrections on the previous assessment on a provided test corrections page. • Have a parent/guardian sign off on corrections (or email teacher confirming student preparation) • Make an appointment with the teacher and review assessment corrections and misunderstandings. • Complete re-assessment at a pre-scheduled time (ELT or after school). • Please note that re-assessments are at teacher discretion & willingness of students to do the re-learning and preparation of studying. All re-do's and re-assessments must be completed within 2 weeks of a returned test!
<p><u>Grading Process Overview:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the Principles outlined above, grades assigned in math class will be influenced by 3 categories; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Assignments (Practice work) ◦ Quizzes ◦ Assessments • Grades will be calculated by total points. No category is weighted but each assignment or quiz/test can vary in point value based on the intensiveness of the work. 		



6th Grade Pathways SYLLABUS

Mrs. Sarah Katsbulas



WHAT IS PATHWAYS?

Pathways is a way for you to begin thinking about and looking into careers once you leave high school. In 6th grade, we discover just who we really are and what our strengths are. Second semester, we'll begin looking more closely at some different careers to learn about where some of our interests align.

CLASS OBJECTIVES



Use Technology



Practice Critical Thinking



Foster Creativity

Collaborate



Communicate Effectively



Explore Careers



KEEP IN TOUCH

skatsbulas@usd232.org

TWITTER & INSTAGRAM

@mrskatsbulas

KEYS TO SUCCESS



Respect others, the classroom, and yourself



Give your best effort



Have a positive attitude



Be honest, even when it's tough



Cooperate! Encourage, support, and show kindness to EVERYONE!

LATE WORK? Hope not, but just in case...



Always communicate with me so we can create a plan for success.



Turn in late work as soon as possible so that your grade accurately reflects your ability.



On all projects, there will be scoring for work not completed on time.

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