



THE ROOST REPORTER

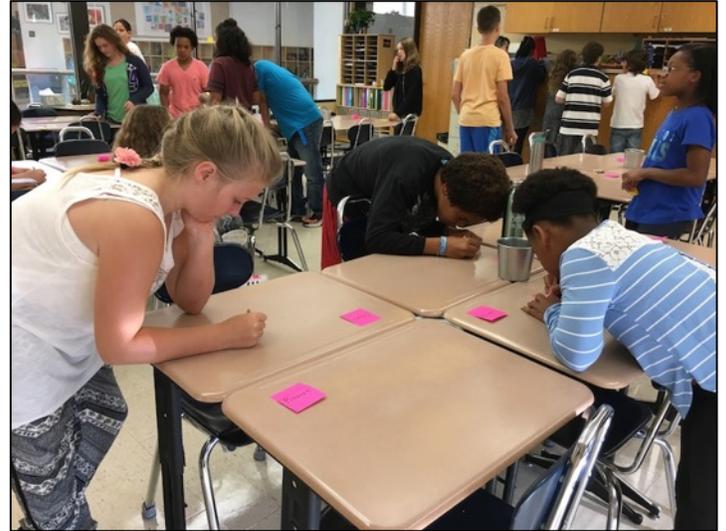


The Newsletter of Record for Sixth Grade

Sep. 1, 2017

Happy New Year!

Welcome to Sixth Grade, families and students! We are happy to say that our first week of school, although short, was terrific. We are still getting to know our new scholars, but we already notice great energy and enthusiasm. We ease into the new year and try to balance revisiting and reestablishing routines with preparing them for new expectations as the school's "big kids." One change is our shift away from Morning Meeting to Advisory, a middle school structure that still honors our Responsive Classroom roots. Advisory will develop as the year unfolds, but is designed to help kids make connections, establish stronger peer relationships, and create a welcoming and safe place for all students in a crew and classroom.



We are excited to welcome Melissa Jones to the Sixth Grade Team! Mrs. Jones has slipped right into the routines of our classroom like a pro - we are grateful for her flexibility and willingness to jump in. Thank you, parents, for checking those agendas. We will continue signing agendas for the first month of school and gradually release full responsibility to students (parents can always check the [class web page](#) to see what assignments are due).



The GCCS Class of 2018 has many adventures ahead and we can't wait to reveal our year's topic later next week. Stay tuned for the big news!

Retreat Just Ten Days Away!

We are excited about the upcoming Sixth Grade Leadership Retreat and can't wait to get your kids into the Adirondacks! We are looking forward to our third year working with Brian Dana, [YMCA Camp Gorham](#) Director, who knows how to plan a fun yet rigorous experience for the kids. We will not be having a parent meeting prior to departure, but if you have specific questions or concerns for us, please catch us at dismissal or email us (email addresses are on the back of this newsletter). We do not take parent chaperons on this trek and thank you in advance for your confidence in the kids - and in us! Paperwork (especially for medication) must be in immediately or your child will be at risk of not participating and no one wants that. We will be wilderness camping and the temperatures can get chilly in the mountains. Please make sure your sixth grader has a sleeping bag [that is rated to 30 degrees](#) (slumber party bags won't cut it) or bring a fleece blanket as an extra layer of insulation! We will have a better idea of the weather as we get closer and will email you any last minute updates.

Integrated Arts in 6th Grade

Our arts team is already hard at work to bring our expedition to life through the visual, musical and performing arts. In Ms. Lockner's class, students are revisiting self-portraits from K-1 as a jumping off point for developing a new, mixed-media self-portrait they will create as sixth graders. We will have visual arts on Thursday mornings this year. Physical Expedition with Mrs. Johnson takes place Monday afternoons and Friday mornings and sixth graders will be exploring the character traits and design principles through movement and games (and will figure prominently in our end of expedition Exhibition Night!). Music will be on Tuesday afternoons with Mrs. Barone and students will start the year exploring a variety of musical genres with the goal of understanding and appreciating diversity in music.



- ✓ **Supplies** - If you are finishing up back to school shopping this weekend, be sure to get headphones for our work on computers. Nothing fancy, please, but we will need them by the end of the month. Also, three, 1" binders are needed for Tuesday as we get organized for instruction next week.
- ✓ **Field Study!** - We are taking a walking field study Thursday, Sept. 7th, from 8:45 - 11:15 a.m., to help frame our year's work. Students need to wear sneakers or shoes that are comfy to walk in for a few miles. Let us know if you'd like to tag along, parents!
- ✓ **Book Orders** - Our first [Scholastic book order](#) is due on Monday, 9/11. You can order directly online or by returning the paper slip and payment to school.

Curriculum Night on 9/26

Sixth grade will host our annual Curriculum Night on Tuesday, Sept. 26th, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. We will review the year ahead, give you the lowdown on portfolio (a few changes ahead this year!), and yes, even discuss that transition to 7th grade.

For families who have been through sixth grade at GCCS, you know that this is a pretty monumental year with students being given all sort of leadership opportunities both in the classroom, at school, and in the community. We will discuss the rationale behind the service requirement (ten hours of community service) as well as roles students play at GCCS (compost ambassadors start next week!).

We will also discuss the Four Cities trip, our Chromebooks and digital citizenship work, and our favorite, understanding your middle schooler (we could probably spend the whole night on that topic alone!). We look forward to seeing you there.

Your Sixth Grade Team

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