



1st Quarter Letter - 6th Grade
Homeroom 108
Writing, Science, & Reading

Mrs. Wegesin mmwegesin@cps.edu
Ms. Boyd sboyd13@cps.edu

Welcome!

Welcome to 6th grade and the 2026/2027 school year! We are so excited to welcome your child back! This year our theme is Art is the Heart of Learning! Through every subject we will continue to integrate art into our curriculum. For our first semester, we will be together for Writing, Science, and Reading.

7:35-7:45	Doors open and students can enter	Monday - Games
7:45-7:55	Homeroom	Tuesday - PE
7:55-8:55	Prep	Wednesday - Games
8:55-9:55	Writing	Thursday - Art
9:55-10:55	Science	Friday - Theater
10:55-11:55	Reading	
11:55-12:40	Lunch/Recess	
12:40-1:40	Social Science 122	
1:40-2:40	Math 115	
2:40 - 2:45	Homeroom	

Writing

The students will start the year by learning the Writing Process. During Writer's Workshop the students will create: a personal description, a friendly letter, and autobiographical incident.

By the end of 1st Quarter, Students Will Be Able To:

- Write routinely over an extended period using the writing process.
- Write a narrative using dialogue, transitions, events, characters, and descriptions.
- Use sensory language to describe an event.
- Use a variety of transition words appropriately in writing.
- Write following Standard English conventions.

High Expectations: Cassell School holds ALL students to high expectations including academic performance, attendance, and behavior. Please review the middle school behavior policy, "Go For The Gold", with your child.

Grade Categories:

Collaborative (Group Work, Class Contribution) 10%

Formative Assessment (classwork, homework) 50%

Summative Assessment (chapter tests/quizzes/final projects) 40%

*class contribution assignments, such as warm-ups and discussions, may not be made up if missed because of an absence.

Gradebook: Aspen Gradebook is updated weekly so please check your student's progress (even better- ask them to check it)! Grade codes used in Aspen are as follows:

INC= Incomplete

EXC= Excused

0= assignment was attempted but no credit was given

MSG= Missing (assignment was never turned in on time)

Homework Protocol: Writing will be worked on in school. Homework will be assigned if absent.

Missing Assignment Protocol: Students' grades will be affected if missing assignments do not get turned in.

Science

Missing work? When a student is absent, there will be a missing assignments sheet in their mailbox. The student needs to make up the assignment within **two** days. After two days, points will be deducted.

Absent work is not provided to students in advance.

Msg will show up for the assignment in ASPEN until the assignment is turned in. Msg is averaged in as a zero.

Grading Categories and Weights: Exit=5%: a short assignment that is given to conclude in-class work (**Exit work can not be made up if absent.**); Formative=55%: classwork, homework, quizzes, research, and mini-labs; Summative=40%: Exams and full project conclusions.

Gradebook codes: Msg=missing(0), Exc=excused, Inc=student still working, 0=actual grade on assignment.

Positive Incentive Program: Go for the Gold (See attachment for all junior high classes.)

New news! 6th: This year myself and Mrs Wegesin will be using the science curriculum OpenSciEd with the 6th grade classes. OpenSciEd is a curriculum created by University of Illinois using phenomena based inquiry for students to collectively figure out science ideas through productive talk which leads to experiments and engineering to support their ideas. Unit 1: Light & Matter!

6th, 7th & 8th: Scientific method and design process: NGSS: MS-ETS1: Engineering Design; Scientific Method: Science and Engineering Practices and science lab safety, SI unit measurement.

The students will be using the scientific method and design process while actively engaging in all middle school curriculum.

6th: MS-PS4-2: Core:Develop & use a model to describe that waves are reflected, absorbed, or transmitted through various materials. PR:Developing and using models. CCC: Structure and Function.
6th:MS-LS1-8: Core:Gather & synthesize information that sensory receptors respond to stimuli by sending messages to the brain for immediate behavior or storage as memories. PR:Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information. CCC: Cause and effect

Reading

Curriculum: Our Balanced Literacy block consists of vocabulary, sustained silent reading, and lessons based on Common Core Standards. Students will be reading books in our class independently on a daily basis. We will be encouraging them to continue their reading at home each night. Our class library is full of young adult literature, some of which may touch on sensitive subjects or may have curse words. The students are encouraged to borrow books from us, but if this makes you uncomfortable, please feel free to escort your child to the Chicago Public Library, Bookies, or Half Price Books and choose a book together. The rest of the curriculum will be a mixture of Greek and Latin Affixes, comprehension, fluency, and responding to literature. The consumable text, **My Perspective** and novels will be used to facilitate these skills along with the computer based program, IXL.

Main reading standards covered for the 1st quarter (subject to change):

- Citing Text Evidence with support

- Close reading
- Critical-Thinking
- Inferencing
- Sustained silent reading

Grades will be calculated using these categories:

Assignments, Discussions-40%

Tests, Quizzes, Projects-55%

and Group Collaboration, Exit Slips-5%

Homework Time will be allocated during each period for free reading and occasionally a grade will be given for the engagement of this activity.

We expect every student to continue reading at home every night for at least 20 minutes. Some students can keep track of their free-read book well enough to take it to and from school to read. However, other students find it easier to keep one book at school and one at home. Please help your child figure out the best routine for them. Homework assignments will consist of nightly reading, weekly IXL assignments, and occasional assignments that will enhance the standard we are working on in class.

Agendas and Absent Work: Agendas are provided by the school and are a great tool for organizing. Homework is written in every room on the homework chart. If your child is absent, please know there is a secretary in every room keeping track of what they missed and what needs to be completed and handed in. This information along with any worksheets will be placed in their mailbox. Absent work is expected to be made-up in the few days following the child's return to school. Any tests missed due to absence will be on my front board and the student is responsible for finding time to make them up.

***IMPORTANT! PLEASE UPDATE THE EMAIL YOU HAVE LISTED IN ASPEN. I SEND MANY MASS EMAILS TO PARENTS WITH UPDATES.
THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO:)***