

Welcome to the 6A Team!



Home of the Knights

August 2012

The 6A teachers are excited about sharing this year with your child and you! The following information will explain our expectations and help your child make a smooth transition to Aprende Middle School. It is our goal to work hard to see that each child finds success and a sense of community as a member of the Knight's team.

The start of a new school year is an exciting time for all of us. As your child moves from an elementary school environment to middle school, some nervousness and apprehension is normal. Fortunately, these feelings usually subside within the first few days or weeks of school. Each teacher on our team is committed to helping your child make as smooth a transition as possible, so please contact us if your child continues to feel anxious.

One of the first questions parents and students often ask is, how much homework is there in sixth grade. Our team works to coordinate homework, tests, and major projects. The Kyrene District guidelines recommend 10 minutes of a night per grade or about an hour a

night for sixth graders. If your child is in advanced placement, they may have more. The majority of homework assignments are in Language Arts and Math classes in order to best prepare students for state and district assessments.

Communication between home and school is essential in middle school. Agendas are used at Aprende to teach student responsibility and to communicate with parents. Each Monday students fill in their agenda at the beginning of each core class for the entire week. We ask that the students review the agenda with their parent/guardian each night and obtain a signature acknowledging their review. Students should never have a blank space for a class. Have your child use the agenda each day at home while they are working on their homework and check off each assignment when it is completed.

Please access our 6A website on a weekly basis for assignments, team news, and special events. If you do not have Internet at home, check out your neighborhood library where computers are available for public use.

Team Website:

www.kyrene.org
School Site
Kyrene Aprende
Grade Level
Teams
Team 6A

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Supplies



Language Arts Supplies:

- 1 1 inch 3 Ring Binder
- 1 package of dividers for binder
- 3- 3 Pronged Yellow Pocket Folder (plastic cover if available)
- 2 of each colored highlighters: green, yellow, blue, and pink
- 2 Packages of Loose Leaf Notebook Paper
- 1 Pack of 2/2 Post-it Flags
- 2 Packs lined 3x5 index cards

Math Supplies:

- 3- Single Subject Blue Spiral Notebook
- 3- 3 Pronged Blue Pocket Folder (plastic cover if available)
- Calculator
- 1 Protractor
- 1 large eraser
- 1 Pencil pouch

Social Studies Supplies:

- 3- 1 Subject Red Spiral Notebook
- 3- 3 Pronged Red Pocket Folder (plastic cover if available)
- 2- Red Grading Pens (no gel pens)
- 1 or 2 Reams of White or Colored Copy Paper
- 1 Box of 12 colored markers

Science Supplies:

- 3- 1 Subject Green Spiral Notebook
- 3- 3 Pronged Green Pocket Folder (plastic cover if available)
- Package of Black or Blue Erasable pens (no gel pens)
- Package of Ticonderoga Pencils
- Highlighters-1 of each green, blue, yellow, pink
- Box of crayons

Now Accepting Donations

Kleenex
 Copy paper
 Index Cards
 Colored paper
 Pocket Calculators
 Construction paper – all color 12x18 size
 Lined notebook paper
 Napkins
 3 x 5 index cards
 Markers
 Staplers
 Masking tape
 Highlighters – green, yellow, blue and pink
 Pencil sharpener, electric
 #2 Pencils
 Erasers
 Graph Paper

Glue Sticks
 Post-Its small
 Post-Its medium
 Colored Pencils
 Scotch Tape
 Crayons
 Sharpie markers /Black/ medium
 Staples
 Scotch Tape
 Pocket folders
 Paper plate
 Zip-lock baggies (sandwich and gallon size)
 Clorox Wipes
Your generous donations are always very much appreciated! We thank you in advance!



Nuts & Bolts



Online Grades:

Parents should use their password to access their child's grades on the Kyrene Parent Portal. **We highly recommend checking grades with your child at least once a week.**

Grading Policy:

The 6th grade teachers use the following grading scale:

90-100% = A
 80-89% = B
 70-79% = C
 60-69% = D
 Below 60% = F

Grades are weighted as listed below:

	<u>Reg.</u>	<u>Adv.</u>	Cheating:
HW/Class work	30%	20%	Any act of plagiarism will result in the student receiving a zero on the
Quizzes/Tests/	70%	80%	
Projects			

Late Work: Our team considers homework an integral part of daily and weekly learning, and we expect students to complete assignments neatly and on time. The final date for turning in any missing assignments for unit of study will be accepted up to the day of assessment of the unit for partial credit.

assignment. Students will receive a zero on any assignment or assessment when they are found to be cheating. The parent/guardian will be contacted. An office conduct referral will also be written for any type of cheating on an assessment.

For other discipline guidelines, please refer to the Student Handbook.

Absences & Tardies

When your child is absent, homework may be requested through the attendance office or by directly emailing the teachers. A 24 hour notice is required before assignments can be picked up at the front office. Students are expected to complete assignments and tests missed during an absence. The student is responsible for obtaining the missing assignments and

returning them to the teacher in the required amount of time. Students may check the white board or websites to see what they have missed while absent. For every excused absence, the student is given one day to complete the missing work. Research shows that a child's attendance rate is important because students are more likely to succeed in academics when they attend school consistently.

In addition, it is very important for students to be in class on time. The student who is late loses valuable instruction time and it is disruptive for the entire class when a student enters the room late. *Further details regarding the tardy policy are outlined in the Student Handbook.*



Positive Behavior Intervention & Support (PBIS)

What is Positive Behavior Support?

PBS is a process for creating safer and more effective schools. Aprende is one of several district schools that is implementing this process. It is an approach to creating a safe and productive learning environment where teachers can teach and all students can learn.

What is PBS at our school?

We have adopted a unified set of classroom rules. These school wide rules define our expectations for behavior in our school and on our team. You will see these rules posted throughout the school and your child will be learning them during his or her first week at school. Our unified classroom rules focus on RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, and PRIDE.

Time to Celebrate

Students can earn a PBIS ticket when staff observes them showing respect, responsibility,

or pride in the classroom, hallways, cafeteria, bus, or bathrooms. The tickets are collected in Academic Lab and random drawings are done on a weekly, monthly, quarterly basis by the administration.

Winning students are recognized in a variety of ways such as: picture on the Wall of Fame, trips to the PBIS activity room, Golden Ticket party, and gift certificates at the quarterly assemblies.



Parent Communication

Organization and planning ahead are key skills to success especially as a child enters middle school. In order for students to become more organized, they will need to have a plan and practice it. Some children have a hard time organizing themselves and staying motivated to practice good organization skills. Parents play an important role in teaching their children organizational skills and keeping them motivated to

practice these skills.

Starting this year, all schools, including Aprende, will have the same website design. One of the goals is to make it easier for parents to access information and assist their child with organization skills. The 6A Knights, will have a team page that contains **a Team Welcome, Newsletters, Materials and Organizational Tips, Student Expectations, and a Team Assignment Calendar.** The Team

Assignment Calendar will show all the homework assignments for the entire team on one location. Teachers will still maintain their individual webpage with more detailed information.

Please take some time at the start of the school year to familiarize yourself and your child with Aprende's website as well as our team and individual web pages.



Thinking Maps

This year our school will continue to use an exciting tool called Thinking Maps. The Thinking Maps, developed by Dr. David Hyerle, are based on thorough, well accepted research. One of the primary benefits of Thinking Maps is they provide a common visual language in classrooms and whole schools. Every teacher on 6A will be using these maps in their content areas as we

work together to help students expand their thinking skills. Thinking Maps are based on 8 cognitive skills:

- Defining in Context
- Describing Qualities
- Comparing and Contrasting
- Classifying
- Part-Whole
- Sequencing
- Cause and Effect
- Seeing Analogies

During the first quarter, your child will learn and/or review the eight maps. Our team will be using these maps in all core subjects throughout the school year.

"Give students a thought and they will learn it for a day. Teach them to think and they'll learn for a lifetime".

Thinking Maps Motto



Please return this form to your Academic Lab Teacher!



Thank you for taking the time to read the information we have provided in this newsletter. We are very excited to have your child on our team and look forward to a very successful year!!

6A Knight's Team

Please sign and return to your Academic Lab Teacher by Friday, August 10, 2012

I have received the 6A Team Newsletter and Information Folder.

Student Name _____

Parent Name _____

Email Address for Parent Contact (s)

Parent Email _____

Parent Email _____