

2018

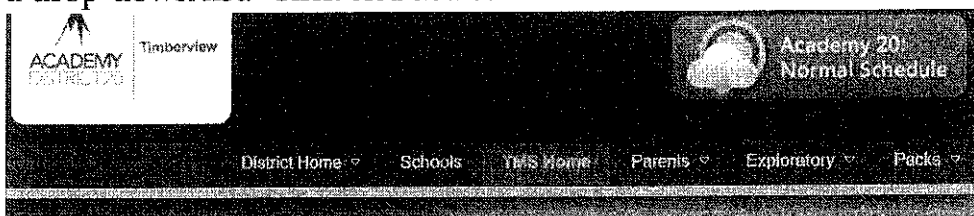
## WELCOME TO SIXTH GRADE AND TO PACK 642

Teachers: Lisa Alexander, Math [lisa.alexander@asd20.org](mailto:lisa.alexander@asd20.org)  
 Charles Moricle, Language Arts [charles.moricle@asd20.org](mailto:charles.moricle@asd20.org)  
 Jo Peak, Social Studies [jo.peak@asd20.org](mailto:jo.peak@asd20.org)  
 Janet Spence, Science [janet.spence@asd20.org](mailto:janet.spence@asd20.org)

Please read the Student and Parent Handbook available online; it is full of important information. This is just a quick reference page for several things that are in place to help us work together as a team to help your child(ren) learn.

We post what we do each day along with any homework on our pack calendar. It is easy to get to the calendar:

1. Go to the Timberview website: [asd20.org/tms](http://asd20.org/tms)
2. On the right side you should see a tab labeled "Packs"; click on it to bring up a drop-down list. Click on Pack 642



3. Our calendar will pop up and then you simply click on the class for which you would like to see the daily information.

### 642 CALENDAR

May 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SA
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Social Stud	Language A	Language Ar	sci - HW s	sci - please	
	Language A	Math	Peak Corner	Social Studi	Language A	
	sci - please	sci - please	social studie	Language A	Math	
	Math	Social Studi	sci - please c	Math		

Our suggestion is that you sit with your child daily and have him/her open their planner to the day. At the same time, have them also open the pack calendar. Your child(ren) should be writing down the TPH that we have posted on each of our

classroom boards daily - we give them class time for this. TPH is T: the topic for the day; P: the presentation - how we plan to teach (notes/video/worksheets/etc.) or the pages we studied; H: the homework. Compare the two, and then use that as the springboard for the ever famous, "what did you learn at school today?" question. Now, you will know what your child(ren) should be telling you that they learned at school. Ask to see the pages they completed in class, have them talk to you about what they did because the more they go over the material, the more they will begin to transfer the information from short term to long term memory. Also, you asking about the lesson and then listening shows them that you value their learning. Teaching is the best way to learn so have your student(s) teach you. Model how to ask questions (regardless of if you know the material or not). Additionally, for those forgetful students, if our learning material is not copy written, we try to include a link so that you can print things at home and avoid the, "I left it at school" excuse.

Then, on a weekly basis, check grades on Infinite Campus (IC). Pick one day during the week to check grades. There are a few quirks in IC that we should let you know about. Please do not use the "missing assignment" link or the "days past due." These links usually have misleading information. Your best bet is to look at each class and the list of assignments. You can tell from each class which assignments are missing, what score was received for individual assignments, and notes that we might leave in the comments section.

If you have questions or concerns about grades or a class, please email the teacher directly first. We will respond within two school days. If you have questions or information for the team, Ms. Alexander is the team leader, so you may contact her directly.

Thank you for sharing your child with us this year. We are very excited to share our love of learning and passion for our subject areas with your student.

Respectfully,

Pack 642 Teachers

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math with Ms. Alexander

I am so excited to have you in class. Math is so much fun and I hope that if it is your favorite subject, you will learn and love it even more this year! If math is not your “cup of tea,” I hope that you give math a chance this year; that you grow in your learning and enjoyment of this wonderful subject.

This year we will learn a lot of math that you will use throughout your life, not just in math classes, but in your real life! We will also use math as the avenue to consider logic, problem solving, and critical thinking - all of these skills will be so important as you mature into adulthood.

Here is what you can expect:

- You need
- a lot of pencils and erasers
  - part of one of the binders
  - highlighters
  - colored pencils (you can keep 3 in the binder)
  - a red pen - you will use this almost every day to correct

You will have homefun Monday-Thursday regularly; on Friday occasionally.

- Keys to success:
1. Take notes and pay attention in class; ask questions
  2. Actually do your homework even if it seems too hard - use your notes to help you with your homework
  3. Correct answers with red pen in class then rework missed problems. Using the red pen makes it easier to find the missed problems and narrows your focus for studying for quizzes and tests

It is important for students and parents to understand that homework (I call it homeFUN) is meant to practice the concept. Like sports or music, you can watch someone do something and think, “Yeah, I can do that!”, but it truly takes practice to be able to consistently throw a football with a spiral, or play a complete song without mistakes. The same goes for math, you have to practice to be consistently good at it!

Believe it or not, I have had students tell me, “I am not good at math.” (Insert laugh here.) I ask, “do you do your homework every night?” The typical answer is, “YES!” followed by, “I try!” Then, “well, I look at, but it seems too hard; and I do not remember what we did in class, so I figure I will ask questions the next day.” If this is you, I ask you to please do ALL of the following (students that do this see success and start saying, “I am

better at math than I ever thought I could be!"). If you feel good about math you should do this too to get in the best habits possible to continue your math growth:

1. Take good notes (the best way to get better at this is to listen and when I tell you to write things down, do it) and pay attention in class
2. Actually attempt the homefun EVERY time - have a good/quiet place to work and if you do not understand something you have two things you should do...
  - a. First, get out your notes and review them. If you took good notes, you should find examples that can help you in your work. If you do not find examples, then you did not take good notes and you need to improve in this area.
  - b. Second, if your notes are not helpful, ASK someone for help, phone a friend, look up a teaching video on [khanacademy.org](http://khanacademy.org) but do not just give up and wait until tomorrow because then you are already a day behind your peers.
3. Write down the correct answers when we go over the answers/questions in class and THEN you MUST go back and try to get those correct answers before you start the new homefun.

Since homefun is for practice, I will check your homefun in class to see if you really attempted the assignment. I have certain things that I am looking for and if you complete the assignment and show genuine effort, you earned a "2" in the Homefun section on IC; if you did not complete or show genuine effort, then you will see either a "1" or a "0" in IC. You cannot redo - for points - a homework assignment. However, you should rework any assignment/incorrect problems because it is a building block for the unit test.

We will go over answers in class. You are expected to grade and rework problems (practice) to get better.

My classroom rule: RESPECT

Here are free sites that I recommend:

**[khanacademy.org](http://khanacademy.org)** - this site has teaching videos and practice sections

**[bigbrainz.com](http://bigbrainz.com)** - this site is a very cool 3D game to help with multiplication facts. It has the game, Timez Attack.

**[aaamath.com](http://aaamath.com)** - less flashy but very good site for multiplication facts and written information about 6<sup>th</sup> grade math topics.

## Procedures for Language Arts in Pack 642 with Mr. Moricle

Email: [charles.moricle@asd20.org](mailto:charles.moricle@asd20.org)

Phone Number: 719-234-3705

My name is Mr. Moricle, and I am very excited to work with you this year! This is my 20<sup>th</sup> year of teaching English Language Arts. During my time as a teacher, I have instructed both high school and middle school students in a variety of core and elective classes. Here is some important information about our language arts class:

- **Preparedness**

Students coming to language arts need to bring the following items with them each day:

- Planner
- Binder
- Pencils and Pens

Additionally, students may bring a school approved device for BYOD. Since this can be an interesting and enlightening part of student learning, I encourage students to bring a device and use it during appropriate times

- **Behavior Expectations**

By using the principles of HOWLS (Honor, Ownership, Work Hard, Lead, and Safe) in the classroom, students will demonstrate respect for themselves and others. My expectations for students also include the following:

- Self-advocacy and asking questions when they need
- A willingness to learn new and challenging materials and ideas
- Knowing the value and procedure for collaboration
- Treating other students in the manner that they themselves want to be treated

- **Standards and Grading**

In English Language Arts, we will study four specific, major standards of learning. They are:

- Reading for All Purposes
- Writing and Composition
- Research and Reasoning
- Oral Communication

All of the coursework studied will connect directly to at least one of the standards as well as the sub-standards for each category.

Grading will reflect the scale as shown below:

100%-89.5% = A

89.4%-79.5% = B

79.4%-69.5% = C

69.4%-59.5% = D

<59.5% = F

- **Make-Up Work**

Students who are absent may make up work per the policy on page 11 of the student handbook. Assignments that a student may need to make up can usually be found on the Pack 642 Calendar, in Google Classroom, or in the make-up work folder in our physical classroom.

- **Late Work**

Aside from the academic standards that students experience and learn, time management and personal responsibility are also important lessons. With that in mind I highly encourage students to turn in work on time. Even so, any student may turn in work to languages arts late and still receive some credit. Generally, a student may turn in late work with an understanding that they will not have the opportunity to earn full credit for an unexcused, late assignment.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about these policies or any other items.

Respectfully,

Charles Moricle

English Language Arts, Pack 642

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Pack 642 Social Studies. The Western Hemisphere will be our focus of study this year with emphasis upon Geography, Economics, Civics and History. In addition, a major component of all of this study will be upon how human beings interact with each other and with their environment within the content areas of "Social Studies". There is no text per say but we will be using materials and information from a wide array of sources that will include books, workbooks, videos and internet sources.

I will expect students to keep their work in a notebook that has an index and is page numbered for easy reference. Students will need to keep track of assignments and be sure that their assignments are turned in on time and are their very best work. Their notebook will be their study guide for all quizzes and tests. We use the "TPH" format on our in class boards and on our pack calendar. I will allow students to re-take any quizzes and tests and to re-do any other work. They will be able to raise their grade to a maximum of 70% on this re-done work. Any student who wishes to have additional help may stay after school with me on Thursdays provided there is no conflicting meeting or appointment. Students will need to coordinate with me for any after school time.

Please use our class calendar to keep track of day-to-day work. Our gradebooks are also available on Infinite Campus 24/7. These are your best tools for helping your student be successful in Middle school.

Thank you for your attention and for your help.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Peak - Pack 642 Social Studies

Dr. Janet Spence

[janet.spence@asd20.org](mailto:janet.spence@asd20.org)

Pack 642 – Science

Timberview Middle School

Quarter Grades: Tests 30%, Labs 30%, Quizzes 20%, Class Participation 20%

Colorado Standards: 1 – Physical Science      2 – Life Science      3 – Earth Science

We plan to cover nature of science, metric system, basic chemistry, water and an earth unit.

Items needed for class: Binder, Pencils, Pencil Case with assorted materials, Planners – or a device to copy homework and check our online calendar!

Students will have access to the Science Tech book via the Logins page on the Timberview website. This allows access both at home and here at Timberview.

Late work – accepted but will be downgraded due to lateness. All students should pay attention to redo policy. This varies by assignment.

Parents and students – please check grades at least one time per week. Please check our pack calendar on a daily basis. It would be great if students could explain to parents what went on in each class as you view the calendar and show parents worksheets and assignments that are mentioned on the calendar.



## Pack 642 PG or PG-13 Movies:

The Ultimate Gift (2007) is rated PG for thematic elements, some violence and language.

The Ultimate Gift is the story of a young man of privilege (Jason) who must learn the true value of wealth after his grandfather passes away. Instead of inheriting his grandfather's money outright, Jason must earn his inheritance after completing a series of tasks; tasks which his grandfather fondly refers to as "gifts". The movie teaches important lessons about life, the value of hard work, and what it means to be a true friend and hero to someone else. This movie ties in nicely with our school's character education themes of empathy, respect, responsibility, integrity, caring, and charity. There will be a written assignment during the movie, where students will be asked to analyze the life lessons the main character learns from each gift and how he grows and develops throughout the movie.

A Wrinkle in Time (2018) is rated PG for thematic elements and some peril.

This novel is read in Language Arts class. A compare/contrast activity via Venn diagram along with a written summary will be completed after viewing the movie.

From [www.common sense media.org/movie-reviews/a-wrinkle-in-time](http://www.common sense media.org/movie-reviews/a-wrinkle-in-time)

This "tween-friendly movie follows brilliant 13-year-old Meg Murry, her genius little brother, and her friend on an epic, perilous journey to find her long-missing father. They're guided on their dangerous voyage across time and space by three supernatural beings. The movie, which is remarkably diverse, promotes positive messages about trusting in your abilities, asking for help, and believing in the power of love. Courage, perseverance, and teamwork are also themes.

Hidden Figures (2017) is rated PG for thematic elements and some language.

Hidden Figures exemplifies Timberview's HOWLS Habits of Mind and is, of course, full of brilliant math connections as well as an introduction to STEM related occupations.

From [www.common sense media.org](http://www.common sense media.org):

Hidden Figures is based on the inspiring true story of three brilliant African-American women who worked at NASA in the 1950s and '60s as "human computers" -- making calculations and contributions that helped launch the manned spaceflight program. ... [These women are] excellent role models, and their story is full of positive messages and themes, including integrity, perseverance, teamwork, and communication.

Akeelah and the Bee (2006): rated PG for mild language.

Akeelah and the Bee is about a young girl's journey to the National Scripps Spelling Bee. Akeelah has a natural gift for spelling, but is at first reluctant to participate in her school spelling bee for fear of what other kids may think of her. Ultimately, she connects with a college professor, who becomes her coach and mentor. Akeelah discovers that spelling words is a lot more than just rote memorization - she must truly understand the words in order to know how to spell them. Akeelah learns that if she understands a word's language of origin, in addition to understanding the word parts (prefixes, root words, and suffixes) she can learn almost any word. This is a great movie about perseverance, friendship, and courage.

Dear Parents of TMS Pack 642 Students,

Throughout the school year, the Pack 642 teachers will occasionally be showing movies to the students that relate to our academic curriculum and/or our character education program. These movies may have a rating of PG or PG-13. As per district guidelines, movies that have these ratings must have parent permission. We have included descriptions of three movies we plan to show this school year. Please decide if you will allow your child to watch these movies and return the permission slip by Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email Ms. Alexander for clarification.

Sincerely,

Pack 642 Teachers  
Ms. Alexander, Mr. Moricle, Mrs. Peak, Dr. Spence

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Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my student to view the following movie(s) with Pack 642. Please indicate your choice:

The Ultimate Gift (rated PG) .....  Yes

No

A Wrinkle in Time (rated PG) .....  Yes

No

Hidden Figures (rated PG) .....  Yes

No

Akeelah and the Bee (rated PG) .....  Yes

No

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_