

Sixth Grade Red Team

Empowered to DREAM, BELIEVE, AND ACHIEVE



Our Email Addresses

Ms. Ficken - Language Arts
dficken@usd259.net
(Team Leader)

Ms. Daniels - Social Studies
ddaniels@usd259.net

Ms. Sears - Science
Starting in January

Ms. Wysong - Math
rwysong@usd259.net

Late work policy:

- Students have 5 days to turn in work late.
- Late work will receive a 10% penalty
- After 5 days it is too late to turn it in

Tutoring Available
(academic support)
Monday - Thursday
3:20 to 4:30
(Students are limited to 2 after school sessions a week.) To sign up for tutoring students need to see Ms. Wysong in room 111.

Wilbur Middle School 2019-2020

DECEMBER NEWS

We want to wish you the happiest Christmas season! We hope you get a chance to spend some time with family and friends. Winter break is a perfect time to restock school supplies. Does your child need more notebook paper and pencils?

We, as a team, have high expectations for our students. We expect them to do the right thing. If you ever have any concerns, please contact either the teacher directly via email, phone call or you may contact me (Dana Ficken, team leader). You may reach the team of teachers during our team time. We meet on Mondays and Friday from 1:05-1:45. My classroom number is 973-1024. We are focused towards helping your child be the best that he/she can be.

Semester Finals

Science - completed	Social Studies - December 13th
ELA - December 12th	Math - December 16th

Important Dates:

December 6th – Newsletter posted
December 10th – Vocal Music Concert 7:00 p.m.
December 19th - End of 2nd quarter
December 20th - January 3rd - Winter Break
January 3rd - In-service Day
January 6th - Students Return from Winter Break



Introducing our Science teacher - - Ms. Penny Sears
(We are so glad she is joining our team!!)

Hello! My name is Penny Sears and I will be the newest member to the sixth grade Science team at Wilbur. This will be my first-year teaching; however, it is my seventh year with USD 259. I have spent my last 7 years at OK Elementary working as an Interrelated Para in grades K-5. My student teaching consisted of Woodland Elementary and Wilbur Middle School in 6th grade Science. I completed my Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with my Middle Science Endorsement from Newman University in December 2019. I am so excited to be returning to Wilbur and joining this amazing team of educators. My goal is helping all your students reach their fullest potential and I look forward to working with each of them.

When I am not teaching, I enjoy spending time with my two sons, Jackson and Chance. Jackson is 6 and in first grade and Chance is 2. The boys and I love traveling, bike riding, playing outside, and building with Legos. My previous experience in education and my previous Science degree is what lead me to getting my bachelor's in education. I chose Science as my content area because I have always loved Science and want to share that love with my students. I am looking forward to great 2nd half of the school year!

Language Arts News (Ms. Ficken)

We are wrapping up our Animal Allies unit. Currently, we are understanding the horse/human connection. Our texts include a poem and a short story about the relationship between man and horse. Students will analyze the texts, work through craft and structure lessons, plus work on conventions. As we get to the final week of the quarter, we will work on our listening skills as we work through an audio of The One and Only Ivan, written by Katherine Applegate. This short novel was inspired by the true story of a captive gorilla known as Ivan and is told from the point of view of Ivan himself. This will be a fun way to wrap our Animal Allies unit. Also, it will be a good review of plot and other literary devices.

Math News (Ms. Wysong)

This month in math students are working on extending their knowledge of Ratios to Unit Rates. Students will use models to illustrate the meaning of a unit rate and solve a variety of unit rate problems. Students will also evaluate prices to determine the better buy and solve problems involving constant speed. After mastering Unit Rates, students will move to converting within and between systems of measurement. To convert units of measurement, they use double number lines, ratio tables, scaling up or down, and unit analysis.

Some Things to Look For

Look for real-life examples of conversions, like inches to feet, days to years. Any time you ask about a measurement in different units, you'll need to do a conversion with ratios and rates. When your student converts a measurement to different units, ask them to explain whether their answer makes sense.

Key Term

unit rate

A unit rate is a comparison of two measurements in which the denominator has a value of one unit.

Science News (Ms. Sears - starting in January)

We have finished with our regular Science content for the semester. The final was given on November 26th. Human Growth and Development started December 3rd, and will take us through to the end of the quarter. This will include topics such as Values, Choices and Decision Making, Self Esteem/Friendship, Dating/Exploitation, Hygiene/Puberty, Reproductive System, Pregnancy, and Planning for the Future. The topics and materials are chosen by the district and must be followed by teachers during HG&D. If you have any questions, feel free to email Ms. Ficken. Keep in mind your student may come home with questions, as they are encouraged to talk with a trusted adult about these topics before, during and after Human Growth and Development.

Please remember to save Boxtops!

Social Studies News (Ms. Daniels)

Currently, we working on our Israelites unit of study. This includes Abraham, Moses and The Exodus from Egypt and their eventual journey back to Israel (Canaan). The story of the Israelites can be found in the Old Testament, the Torah and the Quran.

December 19th is coming up fast and students must work hard to keep up with assignments and prepare for the learning target for this unit. ***Learning Target: Analyze the characteristics of culture as exemplified through the development and spread of Judaism.*** We will be sequencing the major events and development of the Jewish culture.

Just a reminder about homework!!!—**Daily work is due the next school day. Students should be spending at least 20 minutes a night working on social studies assignments or reading from the green textbook that was sent home.** (Israelites is Chapter 6 in the book.) Your child could also be working on recognizing where each state is located on the U.S.A. map. As always, if you have questions, do not hesitate to contact me. Happy Winter !!!!