

# Sixth Grade Red Team

Empowered to DREAM, BELIEVE, AND ACHIEVE



## Our Email Addresses

Ms. Ficken - Language Arts  
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(Team Leader)

Ms. Daniels - Social Studies  
ddaniels@usd259.net

Ms. Gorman - Science  
lgorman@usd259.net

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

## NOVEMBER NEWS

It is strange to say it is November. Second quarter will fly by. We are facing several holiday breaks so our nine week period will be shorter. There are only **32** more school days before Christmas break. Help your child to stay focused as we go over very important concepts and lessons in our classrooms. We would like to encourage you to check your child's homework, look in their agenda, and get on ParentVue or StudentVue to check grades.

**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.

### Important Dates:

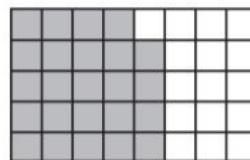
November 1<sup>st</sup> – Newsletter posted  
November 5<sup>th</sup> – Friends University campus visit  
November 7<sup>th</sup> – Fall yearbook picture retakes  
November 7<sup>th</sup> – Band Concert 7:00 p.m.  
November 11<sup>th</sup> – Veterans Day – No school  
November 27<sup>th</sup> – Conference release day – No School  
November 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> – Fall Break – No School

### A Math Moment

#### Talking Points

A common error that students make when working with part-to-whole ratios (like percents and fractions) is to forget about the whole. Look for ways to remind your student about this common mistake.

For example, this model shows 24 shaded squares. Students might say that 24% is shaded.



But the whole is not 100, it's 40. So,  $\frac{24}{40}$ , or 60%, is shaded. Also, more than half is shaded, so it has to be more than 50%.

## Language Arts News (Ms. Ficken)

We have started our Animal Allies unit. This unit includes non-fiction, historical fiction, and a little poetry. Students will analyze the texts, work through craft and structure lessons, plus work on conventions. All of the texts focus on the unit's essential question. How can people and animals relate to each other? Currently, we are in the "whole class learning" section. Soon, they will move into small group learning where they will work together on the texts.

Have you heard? Watermark Books is hosting an event at the Orpheum Theater on November 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. with Jeff Kinney. I do believe all middle school students have read at least one Diary of a Wimpy Kid. It looks like a fun event.

## Math News (Ms. Wysong)

This month in math students will continue their work with Ratios by studying Percents. Students will learn that a percent can be defined multiple ways: as a ratio; as a decimal to the hundredths place; and as a part-to whole relationship in which the whole is 100. Students use their knowledge of fractions and decimals and their intuitive understanding of percents to compare numbers written in these three different forms. You should see number lines of common fractions, decimals, percent equivalences, and students continue to develop their fluency of solving mathematical and real-world problems.

## Science News (Ms. Gorman)

In Science, we have been super busy learning about our universe and our solar system. We did a model to show students how far the planets are apart. Now we are looking at the Earth's place in our solar system. They have learned about earth's rotation which causes day and night and its revolution which causes seasons. Next, they will discover how the positions of the Earth and moon cause the moon's phases and solar and lunar eclipses. They will also learn how gravity affects the movement of objects inside our solar system and in galaxies. As always, students have vocab papers with the words they need to know. Reading resources and the activities will be in their notebooks. We are looking at having the Astronomy Unit test before Thanksgiving break. After the break we will begin our Human Growth and Development Unit. We will complete that before Winter break.

We had our first send in of boxtops. Thank you to all who sent them in. Please continue saving them all year. The 2<sup>nd</sup> send in will be at the end of February.

## Social Studies News (Ms. Daniels)

Knowledge is POWER!!!! This week in social studies, we will begin a unit on Ancient Egypt. Although there are many things to learn, our focus will be on the students' understanding the Egyptians' belief in the afterlife and how it influenced the daily lives of the ancient Egyptians. To do this, we will be learning about their civilization and how it related to their polytheistic religious beliefs. Theocracy, when the pharaoh made both religious and political decisions, played an important part in the peoples' daily lives. We will delve into those beliefs and what made their culture unique.

As always, please encourage your child to **work hard in class each day** and to **practice the items on the world map for our upcoming test**.