

# 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  
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### 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

## OCTOBER NEWS

We appreciate those of you who came to conferences. Remember the line of communication is important between home and school. We want your child to be as successful as possible. However, this takes working as a team with students, parents and teachers. We would like to encourage you to double check your child's homework, look in their agenda, and get on ParentVue to see their 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:

**October 4th - Newsletter posted on website**

**October 7th to 11th - Spirit Week - United Way Student Campaign**

**October 7th - Opposite Day**

**October 8th - Twin Day**

**October 9th - Hawaiian Day**

**October 10th - VSCO Day**

**October 11th - USA Day (6th grade wears red)**

**October 17th - Fall Dance 3:30 - 5:00**

**October 18th - End of 1st Quarter - No School**

**October 21st - In-service - No School**

**October 29th - Orchestra Concert 7:00 p.m.**

### Myth: There is one right way to do math problems.



Employing multiple strategies to arrive at a single, correct solution is important in life. Suppose you are driving in a crowded downtown area. If one road is backed up, then you can always take a different route. If you know only one route, then you're out of luck.

Learning mathematics is no different. There may only be one right answer, but there are often multiple strategies to arrive at that solution. Everyone should get in the habit of saying: *Well, that's one way to do it. Is there another way? What are the pros and cons?* That way, you avoid falling into the trap of thinking there is only **one** right way, because that strategy might not always work or there might be a more efficient strategy.

Teaching students multiple strategies is important. This helps students understand the benefits of the more efficient method. In addition, everyone has different experiences and preferences. What works for you might not work for someone else.

[#mathmythbusted](#)

## Language Arts News (Ms. Ficken)

We are wrapping up our first unit. This has taken a little longer than expected. However, we will be moving into unit 2 very soon. In our next unit, students will learn about the special relationship between people and animals, considering how humans and animals can benefit each other. Students will read a variety of texts and view media as they discuss the essential question. As a class, in small groups and independently, students will work to answer the question *How can people and animals relate to each other?* Give your child the opportunity to continue the discussion at home.

Also our Scholastic book orders are out. If you would like to order, simply go to [www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com). Our class code is MT433. The October book order will close at the end of the month.

Remember to read at home. **“Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.”** —Richard Steele

## Math News (Ms. Wysong)

In October, math students will begin our second Module: Relating Quantities. Students begin this topic by learning about ratios, quantitative relationships represented by ratios, as well as different ways to represent ratios. They are also introduced to percent as a special ratio and they will use their initial understandings of ratio to model and determine equivalent ratios. You will see students using tape diagrams, double number lines, scaling up and down, tables, and graphs.

## Science News (Ms. Gorman)

In Science, we are learning and exploring Newton’s Laws. We did some activities seeing these in action. Students will be looking at different situations and determining which law applies to it. A final unit test over force and motion is scheduled for Oct. 9th. Students will be receiving small assignments that should help with studying for the test. Once we have completed that unit, we will begin looking at the Earth and its position in the Universe. We will look at what causes the seasons and the phases of the moon.

We are still organizing our Science notebook. Many students lost some of the older papers, so they may be missing. It is important that students keep all science papers in their binder or Science Notebook. Your child should be having you sign the back of their notebook after they teach you something from the unit we are on.

Please remember to save Boxtops!

## Social Studies News (Ms. Daniels)

**Knowledge is Power! Having evidence to prove a point is what we are working on in Social Studies.**

During the month of October, your child will be completing a DBQ (Document Based Question) on Hammurabi’s Code. Hammurabi was a powerful king who wrote some of the world’s oldest laws known to man. Students will look at the evidence and debate Hammurabi’s Code’s concept of justice (fairness). Students will analyze the documents and support their opinion (thesis statement) with facts.

This is a research and writing assignment. Therefore, it is IMPERITIVE that your child be in class EVERY day as I explain the directions and teach the content needed to complete this research project. Don’t worry, I will guide them through each step of this process. They just need to be in class! EVERY DAY!! It will take us about 2 weeks to complete. It is extremely hard to make up the material taught when your child is absent because this is a writing assessment. Thank you for helping me in this matter.