

# 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  
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Ms. Minko - Science  
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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

## SEPTEMBER NEWS

This year is full of new changes for your child. They are seeing seven teachers each day, learning how to get to class on time, plus organizing all their work. Sixth grade is a **big transition year** for your child. So hang in there and realize there might be a few "hiccups" along the way.

If you haven't heard, Wilbur is an AVID National Demonstration School. AVID is a program that helps get our students college and career bound. Teachers will be working with your child to understand the importance of taking notes in class and filling out their agenda. We will work on keeping their binder neat and organized. You are more than welcome to check your child's binder and encourage them to stay organized but please don't throw anything away. The binders were put together based on our school-wide AVID guidelines. The pocket dividers are for homework only. Papers from their classes go behind their subject area in the sheet protectors. Binder checks will be completed in all core classes according to the school-wide schedule. Plus, AVID strategies will be used throughout their classes. These strategies will help your child both in high school and college.

Mark your calendar, fall conferences are coming. They will be held September 24th & 26th. These are "come and go" conferences, simply because it would be a scheduling nightmare to try to set a time for approximately 837 students. This year students will be released at 12:00. Teachers will be available Tuesday 1:45 - 7:00 and Thursday 1:45 - 6:30. If you can make it, we would love to meet you. However, we understand everyone's busy schedule. Remember you can check your child's grade on ParentVue. If you have any questions, please email the teacher directly.

**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. Please take time to check your child's agenda, look over homework assignments, and most of all, ask questions.

### Important Dates:

**September 6<sup>th</sup> - newsletter posted**  
**September 16<sup>th</sup> - Chocolate Fundraiser Turn In Day**  
**September 19<sup>th</sup> - fall yearbook pictures**  
**September 23<sup>rd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> - Scholastic Book Fair**  
**September 24<sup>th</sup> - Fall Conferences 1:45 - 7:00**  
**September 26<sup>th</sup> - Fall Conferences 1:45 - 6:30**  
**September 30<sup>th</sup> - Author Visit (more to come)**

## Language Arts News (Ms. Ficken)

We have started our new curriculum and I'm very impressed with it. In this unit, students will investigate some of the challenges and triumphs of growing up, considering the possibilities good and bad that lie ahead of them. Students will read a variety of texts, watch a video, and view media as they discuss the essential question for the month. As a class, in small groups, and independently, students will work to answer this question: *What are some of the challenges and triumphs of growing up?* I would suggest you give your student the opportunity to continue this discussion at home. At the end of the unit, your student will pull together their learning by completing a Performance-Based Assessment answering the essential question.

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

## Math News (Ms. Wysong)

The focus of our upcoming math topic is fraction division. Students will review fraction and decimal comparisons and multiplying with fractions prior to working with fraction division. Students began their formal study of fractions in grade 3. They understand fractions as numbers and can reason about relative sizes of fractions. They have already learned to add, subtract, and multiply fractions.

**Talking Points:** You can support your student's learning by practicing with them. Students are learning to divide with fractions. This involves dividing whole numbers by fractions, fractions by fractions, and fractions by whole numbers.

**Some Things to Look For:** When comparing two fractions, students often assume that the fraction with the smaller denominator must be the smaller fraction. This is not always true! Remind your student to take their time as they work with fractions. Fractions can be tricky!

**Don't forget to log on and practice with your Mathia workspaces.** Module 1 workspaces are due October 17!

## Science News (Ms. Minko)

We are off to a great start in Science. We have gone over our policies procedures and covered all of the safety rules. We have set up our notebooks which should be in the students' binders behind the Science tab. We will be putting all of our notes and work in these and students will be using them to help them review for quizzes and tests. The metric system has been introduced and we have practiced measuring length, mass and volume using the metric system. We are moving into our first unit on Motion. The focus will be on Newton's Laws. We will be practicing our measuring skills.

Please remember to send in your boxtops and download the app for scanning new boxtops. Remember, right now, you can double dip. Scan the receipt after the purchase of boxtop items and then cut out the boxtop and send them in with your child.

## Social Studies News (Ms. Daniels)

Knowledge is Power! I hope your child loves Social Studies as much as I love teaching it!

We continue to work on continents, oceans, and other items that are marked on the WORLD map your child made. Please continue studying with your child. There will be a test before conferences in September.

In the last few weeks we started with some common vocabulary used in social studies. We also learned about prehistory or what we refer to as the period before the development of writing. In September, we will jump ahead to about 200,000 years ago when humankind began to develop and migrate as hunters and gatherers, known as the Paleolithic Era. After that we will learn about the improvements made during the Agricultural Revolution, also known as the Neolithic Era. So much good stuff!!