

Dear Students and Parents,

We would like to welcome you to the Sixth Grade! Our goal in middle school is to prepare students for high school and to challenge our students to become life-long learners. The revision and implementation of the new Tennessee standards emphasizes the importance for all students to become proficient in each standard. Our focus will involve implementation of a standards-based assessment program. The students will be assessed on each standard to ensure that they have learned the standard. We will be sending progress reports home that will keep you informed of your child’s academic status. The program will allow students improve their learning of the standards and increase their level of understanding. Students can receive various forms of remediation and the opportunity to be re-assessed on a standard. Re-assessment will only occur after the child has completed the remediation. Remediation and re-assessment may take place after school, before school, during Focus Group time, or during class (when appropriate). Assessments will account for the majority of the student’s grade with homework and class work counting for a much smaller percentage.

For each standard throughout the year, students can achieve the four levels that are identified and defined by the state.

ADVANCED	PROFICIENT	BASIC	BELOW BASIC
Students who perform at this level demonstrate superior mastery in academic performance, thinking abilities, and application of understandings that reflect the knowledge and skills specified by the grade/course level content standards and are significantly prepared for the next level of study.	Students who perform at this level demonstrate mastery in academic performance, thinking abilities, and application of understandings that reflect the knowledge and skills specified by the grade/course level content standards and are well prepared for the next level of study.	Students who perform at this level demonstrate partial mastery in academic performance, thinking abilities, and application of understandings that reflect the knowledge and skills specified by the grade/course level content standards and are minimally prepared for the next level of study.	Students who perform at this level have not demonstrated mastery in academic performance, thinking abilities, and application of understandings that reflect the knowledge and skills specified by the grade/course level content standards and are not prepared for the next level of study.

Retrieved from <http://www.state.tn.us/sbe/2010Julypdfs/Board%20Workshop%20-%20%20SBE%20Standards%20Setting%20and%20AMOs%20Worksession%207%2029%2010.pdf>

This rubric developed by the state to define the levels of mastery is our guide for our grading of the students. We will be using a rubric-based grading system on all assessments. All assessments (quizzes, tests, projects, informal, etc.) will have three levels of questioning (Level 1: Basic, Level 2: Moderate, Level 3: Advanced). The basic level of questioning will be the minimal requirement of the state standard. Please refer to the grading rubric on the back.

Standards Based Grading Rubric

The students will have a copy of each of the assessment rubrics. With rigorous standards in place, support for students is vital in and out of the classroom. Please encourage your child to ask questions to ensure their academic success. Please sign the attached form and send it back with your child to return to their teacher. Thank you and remember to check our websites for additional information.

Level 1 and Level 2 questions correct. Minor errors made in answering Level 3 questions. All supporting work shown as required.	100 - 93	A	ADVANCED
Level 1 questions correct. Errors made in Level 2 and Level 3. All supporting work shown as required.	92 - 85	B	PROFICIENT
Errors made in Level 1 questions. Major errors made in Level 2 and level 3 questions. All supporting work shown as required.	84 - 70	C/D	BASIC
Major errors made in Level 1 and major errors made in Level 2 and 3. Some supporting work shown as required. Demonstrates very little knowledge of the subject matter.	69 - 0	F	BELOW BASIC

<http://greshamms.knoxschools.org/>

Sixth Grade Teachers

Standards Based Grading Letter

Please sign and return to your child's homeroom teacher.

I have read and understand the Standards-based Grading letter.

Student Name _____

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Phone (Best # to reach you.) _____

E-mail address _____