



Dear Sixth Grade Students and Families,

Welcome to 6th grade at The Franklin School of Innovation! You and your child are entering a place that is growing, changing, and always learning. Each one of us is an integral building block for the culture we all envision and, while that is exciting, it is also a big responsibility for students, parents, and teachers alike. The sixth grade team would like to introduce ourselves, our classes, and a few expectations we have for our grade-level.

From students, we expect a willingness to grow, to realize that no matter what your past school experience has been, there is always room for us to learn and become better people. We expect students to do their best and be their best. We expect students to treat our people and our spaces with respect. We expect students to strive to be visible and valuable in and out of class and to be ever mindful of their own contribution to our growing culture. We are all responsible for what kind of school we want FSI to be.

From our parents, the biggest thing we can ask for is patience. Please assume best intent from us. Our team is made up of people who are deeply invested in every child in our care. We want exactly what you want--namely, the best learning and growing environment your child can have. If there are conflicts, concerns, or needs, please approach us as teammates in raising and educating your child. Our respectful cooperation is the best example we can present to our kids!

From your teachers, you can expect us to come to know your child well on an academic and a personal level. You can expect us to make decisions based upon your child's best interest. You can expect us to help them, to guide them, to encourage them, to model the things we ask of them, to build them up, to communicate, to push them to do more than they ever thought they could. And, most of all, you can expect us to love them. Every now and then it may look like tough-love, but it's always love. Our goal for every student is that they will be a better person for having been a member of our 6th Grade CREW.

We have all landed in a great place together and we look forward to helping this be your child's best school year yet! Here are some basics to get you started for each of your child's core academic classes:

Math with Mr. Keller

Sixth grade math includes concepts of rate and ratio, number system operations, expressions and equations, geometry, and statistics/probability. The overarching goal of this course is to integrate Common Core into the realm of Expeditionary Learning so that students are ready to tackle problem solving in the real world. Projects and activities follow the EL model by focusing on real-life application, collaborative learning, and integration of multiple subject areas. Mr. Keller aims to support a variety of learning styles in the classroom by offering multiple means of material presentation and student engagement. Critical thinking, problem solving, and creative input are modeled and encouraged.

English-Language Arts with Mr. Root

In Language Arts class this year, we will think deeply, read critically, develop more advanced writing skills, and collaborate in order to have meaningful discussions. There will be projects that involve art and engineering. We will dive into at least three Expeditionary Learning modules--extended units of study centered around a novel and other relevant texts. Our first module will begin a week or two into the year and be centered around the book, *The Lightning Thief*, by Rick Riordan. This novel will sometimes be read aloud in class, and other times assigned to be read independently for homework. Expectations for students will be clear, and I will also communicate those to parents. Beyond the EL modules, we will engage in other awesome projects throughout the year with plenty of info to come as we go along.

Social Studies with Ms. Gillis

Sixth grade Junior Historians will continue to build on the knowledge and skills they investigated in 5th grade with an examination of the world from the Paleolithic through Ancient Rome and Medieval Europe. Their studies center on how geography influenced settlement, the need for and role of government in society, the development of economic systems, how culture impacts society, and how things change over time. Students will be evaluated based on work from their composition notebook and folder, unit assessments, projects and in class assignments. This course also uses simulations to help students experience impactful events throughout history.

Science with Mr. Berry-Foster

In science this year students will explore a range of physical, earth and life science topics as a lens through which to learn the process of scientific inquiry. By the end of this course students will know basic principles of ecology, geology, chemistry, waves, astronomy and more. Units and lessons are designed to help students experience the power of scientific discovery through hands-on learning, inquiry, and critical thinking. The course will address the North Carolina Essential Standards for 6th grade science. Students will be evaluated based on in-class work, projects, tests and quizzes.

Finally, thank you for choosing to entrust our team with your child's education. We can't wait to get to know them and to watch them grow. Please feel free to be in touch with us as needs arise and we will do the same. It's going to be an exceptional year.

Fondly,

The sixth-grade team

6th Grade School Supply List 2026 - 2027

Required - for individual student use:

- Pencil pouch (with pencils and a sharpener included)
- Folder
- 3, 1-inch or 1 ½-inch three-ring binders
- Notebook paper for each binder
- 2 regular composition books
- TI-30 XIIS calculator

Optional - for individual student use:

- Colored pencils/Sharpies/fine-tip Sharpies

Optional (but much appreciated)! - shared classroom supplies

- Dry-erase markers
- Extra pencils
- Colored pencils/Sharpies/fine-tip Sharpies
- Index cards
- White-out
- Disinfectant wipes
- Tissues
- Small hot glue sticks

Technology

- Headphones - It is strongly recommended that you send your students with a pair of their own headphones (earbuds or over-ear). Do not send expensive sets that might be easily damaged.

5th/6th Summer Reading Suggestions

Award Winners:

[Moon Over Manifest](#)

by Clare Vanderpool

[Out of the Dust](#)

by Karen Hesse

[Kira-Kira](#)

by Cynthia Kadohata

[The Higher Power of Lucky](#)

by Susan Patron *Illustrated by* Matt Phelan

[The Graveyard Book](#)

by Neil Gaiman *Illustrated by* Dave McKean

[When You Reach Me](#)

by Rebecca Stead

[Dead End in Norvelt](#)

by Jack Gantos

[Mockingbird](#)

by Kathryn Erskine

[When Zachary Beaver Came to Town](#)

by Kimberly Willis Holt

[Navigating Early](#)

By Clare Vanderpool

Classics and Favorites:

[20,000 Leagues Under The Sea](#)

Jules Verne

[Number the Stars](#)

by Lois Lowry

[Maniac Magee](#)

by Jerry Spinelli

[Tuck Everlasting](#)

by Natalie Babbitt

[Island of the Blue Dolphins](#)

by Scott O'Dell

[DRAGONWINGS](#)

by Laurence Yep

[A Long Way From Chicago](#)

by Richard Peck

Nonfiction:

[Wild Ride: My Journey From Cancer Kid to Astronaut](#)

By Haley Arceneaux

[GUYS READ: TRUE STORIES](#)

by Various

[HARRIET TUBMAN](#)

by Ann Petry

[RED SCARF GIRL](#)

by Ji-li Jiang

**In light of our current societal situation these days, the following titles highlight the diversity and equity in which our school firmly believes. These titles are by no means comprehensive. They're just a place to start and get students thinking.*

[The Parker Inheritance](#)

by Varian Johnson

[No Fixed Address](#)

by Susin Nielsen

[Return to Sender](#)

by Julia Alvarez

[The Season of Styx Malone](#)

by Kekla Magoon

[Amina's Voice](#)

by Hena Khan

[Amal Unbound](#)

by Aisha Saeed

Or check out amazing middle grade titles by one of these authors!

Richard Peck
Christopher Paul Curtis
JK Rowling
Cynthia Rylant
Lois Lowry
James Patterson
Rick Riordan
Jerry Spinelli
Gary Paulsen
Raina Telgemeier
Neil Gaiman
Carl Hiaasen