

Communication between home and school will be essential during the coming school year!

There are a number of ways to keep the lines of communication open. These include...

- * **Your child's planner!** Your son/daughter will bring home a planner on a daily basis. This is an important part of organization and responsibility. Please take the time to review this with your child, as it highlights what was done in class, any homework that needs to be completed, and upcoming events. A parent signature will be required each day. Please feel free to note any questions, concerns, or comments in this planner, as I will check them daily.
- * **The Friday Folder!** As in years past, your son/daughter will bring home a folder each Friday with important materials from the office and from room 37. You should expect to see completed and corrected work from the week, our classroom newsletter or updates on curriculum (every-other week), and information about upcoming assignments or projects. Please take the time each weekend to review this as a family!
- * **Email!** I utilize email as a primary line of communication between our classrooms and your home. During the first week of school Mr. Huck and I will ask for the best email address to contact your family. We will use these to share positive feedback, important reminders, and to communicate missing or incomplete homework assignments. My email address is **bsteele@jpsonline.org**.
- * **There will be other ways to contact me directly, too!** I will be checking my Bursley voicemail and email periodically this summer. Please feel free to leave me messages by phone (457-8488 x2637), use the email address listed above, or visit my sixth grade classroom website at **<http://SteeleSixthGrade.weebly.com>**.

I look forward to getting to know you and your child throughout the coming school year!

Welcome to Mrs. Steele's Sixth Grade Class!



My Classroom Goal:

To form a learning community where creativity is fostered, ideas are challenged, success is celebrated, and goals are achieved by the teacher and students alike.

Welcome to sixth grade! My name is Becky Steele and I am thrilled to be following your child to sixth grade in the fall.

I am a graduate of Grand Valley State University, where I earned a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and School Health, emphasizing elementary education. Prior to GVSU, I attended Jenison Public Schools. In my opinion, this is the best district in the state and I am thrilled to be beginning my eighth year of teaching at Bursley!

I believe it is important to be a life-long learner. I am currently working toward a Master's degree at GVSU, studying Special Education – Emotional Impairments.

Outside of Bursley and grad school, I enjoy spending time with my husband, daughter, family, friends, and pets. Our daughter Tessa Mae will turn two in the fall and has brought endless joy to my life. Preston, Tessa, and I also have two cats and two miniature dachshunds at home, ensuring that there is never a dull or quiet moment. ☺ My hobbies include chasing toddlers, reading, going for bike rides, shopping, home-improvement projects, traveling and camping, baking, watching movies, working on projects in my classroom, and anything mathematical.

Sixth grade is going to be a memorable year, filled with exciting challenges and rewarding experiences. A primary focus for our year together will be growing in the areas of organization, responsibility, and moral character. Strategies to be successful in these areas, combined with high academic expectations, will (I believe) prepare your child for junior high and beyond.

I am looking forward to sharing my enthusiasm for learning with your child in the year ahead, and getting to know their interests and hobbies. I hope they are looking forward to their last year of elementary school, too. It will be very special.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer! Keep reading!

The following is a brief outline of the sixth grade curriculum:



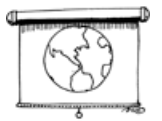
Reading: We will continue to focus on building comprehension strategies and examining literary elements such as setting, plot, character development, conflict, theme, mood, and author's craft. Sixth grade reading genres include folktales, action and adventure, fantasy, and nonfiction/informational reading. Reading at least 20 minutes per night (100 minutes/week), recording this reading on a log, and responding to literature read will be a weekly expectation.

Writing: Using strategies learned in writing workshop, students will compose both fiction and nonfiction texts. We will focus on the traits of good writers: ideas, sentence fluency, organization, word choice, voice, and conventions. We will also use research-based strategies to construct well-organized written work across content areas. Students will frequently write in response to their reading, too.



Math: As in years past, students will be placed into flexible ability-level math groups to help individualize their instruction. Sixth grade math topics include problem solving, place value, graphing, geometry, fractions, measurement, probability, and algebra.

Social Studies: Sixth grade social studies shifts from a focus on history (as in years past) to a focus on regions of the world. Students will study North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Oceania. We will gain perspective as to how the geography of a region is linked to its culture, history, government, and economy. We will also learn map skills and investigate how regions of the world impact each other on a daily basis. I will be teaching social studies to both classes.



Science: Students will investigate concepts of matter, energy, and forces. They will also learn about geological time, the rock cycle, and aspects of an ecosystem including food webs, abiotic/biotic factors and symbiotic relationships. Mr. Huck will teach science to both classes.