

Griswold Base (6th Grade)

Sky Ranch GT Magnet Team Expectations

2021-2022



Welcome to Sky Ranch Middle School! This is a big step for any student, much less those who have taken the effort to enter the Magnet program. We look forward to working with your students, striving to create an educational environment that possesses a rigor commensurate with your child's current and potential abilities. We work to integrate all core tasks and provide activities that elicit responses to real life problems and dilemmas.

Expected Supplies

A supply list has been emailed and can be found on our team website. In addition, a \$50.00 fee was requested by the GATE office in order to defray the cost of science materials, technology, and manipulatives. Our students will be expected to arrive daily with their laptop computer (charged for the day), their own writing instrument, and any other required materials for each class (outlined in each syllabus) to maximize their ability to learn and collaborate.

Agenda Books

Students will be receiving Thunderbolt agenda books this year to keep track of events, assignments and due dates. It is expected that students carry it to each class every day and fill out in each period with what was discussed or done. **Every Monday in Enrichment, teachers will check that the previous week's entries have been examined and signed off by a parent or guardian.** Students will earn a behavior score in Enrichment for this, losing a half point for each day they come to school without their agenda signed, Monday: full points (2.5) through Friday (0.5). After Friday, unsigned agendas will not be given points.

The other 2.5 points for Enrichment will be based on student behavior.

Weekly Schedule

The school wide bell schedule is below. **School dismisses at 1:15 p.m. on most Wednesdays.** We are available Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays after school until 2:45 p.m. to help students or meet.

6th Grade				
Monday (A)	Tuesday (B)	Wednesday (A)	Thursday (B)	Friday (A)
1 - 7:30-8:21	6 - 7:30-8:21	1- 7:30 - 8:15	6 - 7:30-8:21	1 - 7:30-8:21
2 - 8:26-9:15	5 - 8:26-9:15	2- 8:20 -9:01	5 - 8:26-9:15	2 - 8:26-9:15
3A - 9:20-10:09	4B - 9:20-10:09	3A- 9:06 - 9:47	4B - 9:20-10:09	3A - 9:20-10:09
4A - 10:14-11:03	3B - 10:14-11:03	4A- 9:52 - 10:34	3B - 10:14-11:03	4A - 10:14-11:03
L- 11:03 -11:33	L- 11:03 -11:33	L - 10:34 - 11:04	L- 11:03 -11:33	L- 11:03 -11:33
Enr- 11:40 -12:09	Enr- 11:40 -12:09	Enr- 11:11 - 11:41	Enr- 11:40 -12:09	Enr- 11:40 -12:09
5 - 12:16 - 1:05	2- 12:16 - 1:05	5--11:48 - 12:29	2 - 12:16 - 1:05	5 - 12:16 - 1:05
6 - 1:10 - 2:00	1 - 1:10 - 2:00	6-12:34 - 1:15	1 - 1:10 - 2:00	6 - 1:10 - 2:00
Following week will begin with B and rotate B/A everyday				

Homework

We believe that academic work at home must be meaningful. All students will have adequate experience with a project prior to its due date. Many projects and assignments are started in class and completion is expected to be done at home; this also means work which was assigned – and expected to be finished – in class may become homework if a student does not finish during the school day. Some classes will have an ongoing cycle of assignments and others will be on an irregular schedule.

Communication with Families

If you are concerned about your child's performance or have a question, please contact us and we will respond. Email is one option for quick communication, but you can also call us @ 775-626-0060. We need your continued support in encouraging our expectation that your child brings his or her work/homework home every day and is prepared daily for class. **We use Infinite Campus to send out our messages, so please make sure that your email information is valid and up to date with the Sky Ranch office.**

6th Grade Team	Mr. Sorensen (Lead)- lsorensen@washoeschools.net (English/History/Creative Writing) Mrs. Clotworthy- sierra.plumb@washoeschools.net (Math/Science/Coding)
Griswold Base	Mrs. Porter (Site Lead)- Lindsey.Porter@washoeschools.net (7 th /8 th History)

Team Website

Our team has a website: www.washoeschools.net/griswold

We use this website to post large upcoming assignments, GT department announcements, team announcements and schedule changes. We also update them whenever necessary so that students and parents are aware of what is taking place and which major assignments are coming up due in each class. Assignments and due dates are subject to change, so it is important to check it frequently.

Parent/Team Meetings:

If you would like to set up a meeting with us to discuss your child's progress, please let us know. We also have two different counselors who can attend meetings or talk to you one-on-one, if you would prefer.

Molly Ivans (**GT Counselor**): MIvans@washoeschools.net

Ms. Gunderson (**Sky Ranch Counselor**): RGunderson@WashoeSchools.net

Common Policies

One of the greatest benefits of teaming is that your child will experience some common policies and similar expectations from all his/her teachers. This limits confusion and conflict as the year progresses. We will make sure to communicate with you regarding any new policies we develop to address new issues as our school year progresses. For now, here are some of our common and current policies:

Missing and Late Work– In general, students need to turn work in on time in order to be successful and keep up with the pace of our courses. We understand that occasionally students get a little jumbled and/or there are extenuating circumstances that prevent students from getting work in on time. If such a circumstance occurs, please communicate that information with us via email as soon as possible. Some assignments, due to the nature of the work, may not be accepted late. This is at each teachers' discretion and will be communicated with students ahead of time.

Late assignments will be scored as follows (we are including 7th and 8th grade for future reference):

8th Grade: Quarter 1: 70% of points earned, Quarter 2: 70% of points earned, Quarter 3: 60% of points earned and Quarter 4: 50% of points earned

7th Grade: Quarter 1: 80% of points earned, Quarter 2: 80% of points earned, Quarter 3: 70% of points earned and Quarter 4: 70% of points earned

6th Grade: Quarter 1: 80% of points earned, Quarter 2: 80% of points earned, Quarter 3: 80% of points earned and Quarter 4: 80% of points earned

Only work from the current quarter will be accepted late. All late and missing work for each quarter is due about a week before the end of the current quarter. This date will be communicated and posted.

Absences- If a student is absent, **it is their responsibility to gather their makeup work no later than 2 days upon their arrival back to school.** They will have one day for each day absent plus one additional day to complete and turn in missing work. After that point, our late policy will go into effect. If a previously assigned task is due on the day of their absence, that task is due the day they return. Due to the rigorous curriculum that your student will be experiencing this year, it is crucial for them to be in attendance. If possible, please limit their absences. **Students need to email each of the teachers whose class they're missing to inform the teacher of the absence.** This is a skill students will need and we will require this in the program. Please refer to Washoe County School District's website for updated attendance policies.

Plagiarism- The Sky Ranch GT teams will follow WCSD rules when it comes to plagiarism and cheating. If a student chooses to plagiarize or cheat, that student will earn a zero for that assignment. Students will also earn a deduction in their citizenship grade for that class. A teacher may require completion of an alternative assignment and it is that teacher's decision whether to give the student partial or no credit for that assignment. The violation will be recorded in the student's Infinite Campus file under Academic Integrity. The teacher will also notify administration and the parents. The school administration may impose additional consequences if conditions so warrant. Please visit Washoe County School District's plagiarism policy for more information.

Sometimes students choose to copy each other's work instead of doing their own. As a team, we consider copying the work of another student as a form of plagiarism. Please be aware that consequences for copying another student's work will be earned by both the student who chose to copy AND the student who allowed their work to be copied.

Electronic Devices- Sky Ranch is a 1:1 school. Your child will be required to bring their **charged** laptop with them to each class every day. Our teams will follow the Sky Ranch Technology Rules and Procedures. **Students are expected to use their computers properly and as outlined by their teachers—at no time will video games, unnecessary internet browsing, etc. during class be permitted.**

Students are not allowed to have their cell phones out in class – this includes listening to music without verbal permission. If a student is found misusing their personal device, the teacher will take the device and deduct behavior points. The device will be given back at the end of the day. If a student chooses to misuse a personal device a second time, a parent will need to pick up the device in the office and behavior points will be deducted. **Ear buds may be brought to class and used at teacher discretion for instructional purposes.**

Academics:

English/Language Arts

For GT Language Arts, our focus will be on developing mature language skills that relate to reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Our approach will require students to independently choose appropriately-leveled books that, upon reading, will become the basis of independent and group projects. At minimum, students will be expected to read three hours a week in their current novels and prepare for in-class discussions as their "always" homework for Language Arts. All novels used in the Magnet program have been cleared by the Washoe County School District for their grade-level use in our program. In class, our approach will have students not only comprehending the texts that we discuss as a group but also learning to analyze the works with a "writer's eyes." To do this, students will develop an academic vocabulary that helps them differentiate quality writing skills from average writing skills, and they will practice applying the stronger skills of writing to the drafts they are working on. By year's end, each student will write expository, argumentative, and narrative pieces for writing all the way through the seven steps of the writing process, developing and revising their ideas with the assistance of classmates, teachers, and mentor texts. These papers, along with students' projects based on the books they will read, will constitute the majority of the students' final grade.

Mathematics

All mathematics classes will be exploring number relationships, data and probability, geometry, expressions and equations (algebra), and proportional reasoning. Exploration of the concepts will be at a very high cognitive level and will require that students read, write, and discuss math in class

daily. Homework will be given most nights. All homework is expected to be done by the student! Frequently, we give pre-learning tasks or assignments meant to capture student interest. Because we are aligned with the Common Core National Math Standards our curriculum focuses on problem-solving and reasoning not rote skill practice. Interdisciplinary projects and “think tank” work will be completed during class time and during enrichment; consequently, all evaluated tasks will be added to the core class grade. WCSD no longer allows students to earn high school credits for courses taken in middle school; however, our students can finish high school courses and start at a higher level when entering high school. Lastly, students will be required to pass the End of Course Examination (s) at the end of the year based on math placement. End of Course Exams are required for high school graduation. Recommendations for high school math placement will be based on student progress, work ethic, test scores, and overall class grades. Student options for high school math are Formal Geometry, Honors Algebra 2, Trig/Pre-Calculus, and Calculus based on current math enrollment.

Science

Science topics will be related to grade-level. Sixth grade students will be focusing on Earth Science. Throughout the year, we will explore the nature of science, water and atmosphere, carbon and the environment, the Earth, and astronomy. Seventh grade students will be focusing on Physical Science. They will be introduced to the nature of science, matter, energy, forces and motion, and chemistry. Eighth grade students will be focusing on Honors Biology. This class includes nature of science, cells, cell processes, heredity, genetics, the theory of evolution, classification, and ecology.

Grade level labs will include scientific inquiry, research, measurement, problem solving, and experimental procedures. Homework will be given throughout the course and will mostly depend on how much work students are able to complete during class time. Homework may also be given to prepare students for the next day’s lesson. Students should get in the habit of studying on a regular basis to prepare for unit tests. Weekly schedules for each class will be posted in the classroom and the team’s website.

Social Studies

Social studies will encompass history, geography, economics, politics and current events. Much of our study of history will include primary sources, and learning will be delivered via projects and interactive assignments. Projects will take multiple class periods and it is imperative that students consistently work on these large assignments. We will focus a large part of our year on argumentative writing, ensuring that students can make claims and support them using reason and evidence. We will also focus on looking at multiple perspectives. Homework in history will be on an irregular schedule, but due dates on long range projects will be posted well in advance and class time will be provided to initiate all major assignments. The weekly schedule will be posted in the social studies classroom and on the team website.

Field Trips

It is possible some field trips will be taken during the year, information about which will be sent out at a later date.

Interdisciplinary Round Table Projects

Due to our unique situation this year, round tables are currently suspended. Students will continue to work on projects during enrichment that will have components of project-based learning but we will not be hosting any evening events with community judges this year. We are hopeful we can engage in round tables in the future!

Behavioral Expectations

Students are expected to behave in a way that benefits his/her learning as well as the learning of others. Although most of our children have exemplary behavior, we do have a progressive discipline plan in place to ensure that behaviors that are detrimental to learning are dealt with appropriately.

Minor behavior violations: We will follow Sky Ranch’s PSAs and FLIGHT PLAN

Major behavior violations: such as bullying, safety concerns, fighting, or severe disrespect to another student or school staff member (including volunteers and substitutes) will result in an immediate meeting. A Sky Ranch administrator will contact the parent and the GATE representative. All major violations will result in either an in-school suspension or out of school suspension.

***Please sign and return this page to your enrichment teacher by
Friday, August 20th. ***

Please keep a copy of the contract for your reference.

Student Name: _____

Enrichment Teacher: _____

Please check the following that apply:

- ☐ I have **read** this letter and **understand** the expectations of the Team.
- ☐ My child and I have tried and **successfully accessed** the team website.
- ☐ I have checked Infinite Campus and the email listed as contact 1 is **correct**.
- ☐ I have checked Infinite Campus and the email listed as contact 1 is **NOT correct**. The email I would rather have communication sent to is: _____

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date