

# SIXTH GRADE ACADEMIC AGREEMENT

## Enrolled on the First Day of School

Welcome to sixth grade at the Math and Science Academy! Please read the following academic information and sign and return the agreement. Math and Science Academy has accelerated curricula, small class sizes, and is a rigorous, college-prep school. Regardless of a child's previous academic scores on tests or grades in school, ALL sixth grade students will be placed in the following classes:

### Sixth Grade Courses

All sixth grade students are registered for the following courses:

English 6

Physical Education (S1 or S2) with Study Skills (S1 or S2)

Life Science

Minnesota Studies

Spanish 1A (see information below)

Enrichment course - students will be placed in one of the following courses:

- Band (Band was a choice on the registration form); or
- Art 6 (S1 or S2), World of Music/Drumming (S1 or S2), Art Appreciation (S2)
  - Enrichment courses, excluding Band, are chosen for middle school students and no parent or student requests will be granted.

### MATH

All incoming sixth grade students will be given a math placement exam. The math placement exam will determine if the student will be placed in Middle School Math I, Middle School Math II, or Integrated Math I. MSA's math courses are advanced compared to other schools.

### SPANISH

Incoming sixth grade students who have been in a Spanish Immersion School will be given a Spanish placement exam. All other sixth grade students will be placed in Spanish 1A regardless if they had Spanish once per week in elementary school.

### Grading

MSA has two semesters; Semester 1 and Semester 2. Students receive grades for Semester 1, Semester 2, and the Final. Semester 1 grades are finalized and posted on Skyward Family Access the Thursday after the semester end. Semester 2 and Final grades are finalized and posted the Thursday after the last day of school.

Students who receive a **final grade of an F** for the following classes are required to retake the course in 7<sup>th</sup> grade: English 6, Life Science, MN Studies

Math and Spanish expectations are listed on the next page.

Math and Spanish final grade expectations and course progression.

Course	Grade level	Must receive the following grade to progress to next class	Student who receive the below grades for the course in 6 <sup>th</sup> grade must retake the course in 7 <sup>th</sup> grade
Middle School Math I	6	D- or better to progress to Middle School Math II	F ⇒ Repeat Middle School Math I
Middle School Math II	6	C- or better to progress to Integrated Math I	D+, D, D-, or F ⇒ Repeat Middle School Math II
Int Math I	6	B- or better to progress to Integrated II	C+ - F ⇒ Repeat Int Math I
Spanish 1A	6	C- or better to progress to Spanish 1B	D+, D, D-, or F ⇒ Spanish 1A
Spanish 1B	6	B- or better to progress to Spanish II	C+ - F ⇒ Repeat Spanish 1B

## Sixth Grade Student and Parent Expectations

SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Be challenged on a daily basis. Students should be committed to moving through materials at a demanding rate and have the ability to advocate for themselves as needed. Students will need to be able to manage their time wisely and be committed to spending a lot of time on their school work, both during school and out of school.
- Complete their assignments daily. **Expected amount of daily homework for a sixth grade student is approximately 1.5 – 2 hours.**
- Write assignments in some sort of organizer. Teachers often instruct students at the beginning of every class to write assignments down.
- Be prepared for tests. Students usually know about major tests one to two weeks before the test and need to make sure they study every night for at least 10-15 minutes until the night before the test, when they should study for a longer time.
- Problem solve when having trouble with homework. Students should try this progression of steps: Looking at their notes, looking at the class website, calling a friend, calling/emailing the teacher in a timely manner, checking in with the teacher during teacher office hours (before or after school).
- Manage their part in group projects. When completing group projects, students are expected to use in-class time wisely, communicate with their project partners outside of class (phone, email, messaging, etc.), and communicate any problems or concerns promptly with their teacher.
- Pace themselves when working on projects. Teachers usually chunk larger projects into smaller pieces, and students need to stay on top of those smaller pieces so they are not overwhelmed by the final due date.
- To prioritize school work over extra-curricular activities. Schoolwork should come first. Students are expected to complete their assignments, even if they have many activities in one evening.
- Turn in work on time. In middle school, late work receives a 50% grade reduction. In some high school classes, late work receives no credit.
- Be respectful to others. Students must take responsibility for their actions, their community, and to follow the MSA Student Handbook.

PARENTS ARE EXPECTED TO:

- **Be aware of the academic challenges at MSA.** If your student struggles with school, you will be expected to help your student with study skills and organization.
- Read the school announcements daily.
- Provide a place for your student to study.
- Read their student’s organizer daily and help their student create a daily schedule to get all of their homework completed in a timely manner. That can be a lot for a younger student to understand, and they need reminders to reinforce the message at home.
- Provide the resources to help students complete their assignments but not to do the work for the students. This includes picking up a computer and turning all forms in before the first day of school.
- Help students balance their activities with their schoolwork by not allowing students to be over-scheduled. Schoolwork should come first. Students are expected to complete their assignments, even if they have activities in one evening.
- Check Skyward Family Access and class websites as necessary and contact teachers if you have any questions. Parents may set up Skyward notifications if a student earns a grade below a certain level.
- Volunteer at MSA in whatever ways are possible.

### Additional Information

Visit the MSA website at [mnmsa.org](http://mnmsa.org) to read about the following information:

- Grading Handbook at [mnmsa.org/Current Families/handbooks and guides](http://mnmsa.org/Current Families/handbooks and guides)
- MSA course book to see the progression from grade to grade - [mnmsa.org/About MSA or mnmsa.org/Current Families/handbooks and guides](http://mnmsa.org/About MSA or mnmsa.org/Current Families/handbooks and guides)
- Student Handbook at [mnmsa.org/Current Families/handbooks and guides](http://mnmsa.org/Current Families/handbooks and guides)

I have read the above sixth grade academic agreement regarding courses, grading, student and parent expectations, and additional information located on the MSA website:

Student’s Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

Parent’s Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)