

Math - Ms. Soltani

Ms. Soltani is not in school today and has sent a letter to all 6th grade families describing her approach to math instruction, the 6th grade math curriculum, and assessment.

Social Studies Ms. Pritchard

World Geography and Ancient Civilizations I

Introduction Unit	How can we develop and practice routines and skills to support our
	learning?
Access to Water and Early Human	How did rivers shape the development of human societies?
Societies	
Mesopotamia	How do individuals and groups express and share their cultures?
Egypt	How are a group's beliefs and values reflected in their thoughts about death and life after death?
Kush	How have individuals and groups worked to create and correct historic narratives?
Central America	How do individuals and groups express and preserve their cultural identities?
Writing Unit	How have humans and societies used innovation in agriculture to overcome geographical challenges?



Social Studies Canvas Home Page

From the Home Page, students can...

- Access each unit of instruction
- Access unit planners
- Access grades
- Send me messages



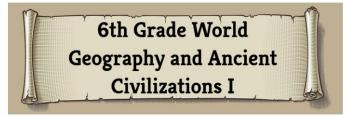
Social Studies 06 - Pritchard > Pages > Home Page

Assignments

Modules



Home Page



Student Office Hours: Thursdays Before School From 7:15-7:45

Parent Office Hours (By Appointment): Tuesdays Before School from 7:15-7:45

Course Syllabus Fis









Immersive Reader





Unit Planner



Unit Planner





Unit Planner



Unit Planners

Unit Planners are posted for each unit of instruction. They contain:

- Title of unit
- Unit overarching question
- Tier two academic vocabulary
- Lesson sequence
- Learning objectives
- Key terms and concepts
- Homework

When absent, students should always check the Unit Planners to see what they have missed.

World Geography and Ancient Civilizations I Unit: Access to Water and the Development of Early Human Societies

Course Skills

Thinking Like A Historian	•	Evaluates a diverse range of evidence and perspectives to tell accurate
and Social Scientist		narratives about the past and present
	•	Makes connections between the past and present
Being A Changemaker	•	Makes positive changes in our communities and the world

Unit Overarching Question

How did rivers shape the development of human societies?

Vocabulary for Middle School Scholars

forage (Day 1 HW) permanent (Day 2 CW)		silt (Days 4-5 CW)	
nomad (Day 1 HW)	supervise (Day 2 CW)	irrigation (Days 4-5 CW)	
consensus (Day 1 HW)	surplus (Day 2 CW)	abundant (Days 4-5 CW)	
systematic (Day 2 CW)	exploit (Day 2 CW)	delta (Days 4-5 CW)	
agriculture (Day 2 CW)	fertile (Day 3 HW)	flood (Days 4-5 CW)	
domestication (Day 2 CW)	crop (Day 3 HW)	thrive (Day 8 CW)	

Class	Objective/s	Key Terms and Concepts	Homework	
Day 1: How did early humans live? Date: Wednesday, 9/18	I can identify topics, main ideas, and details in a text to determine how early humans lived.	topic main idea detail hunter-gatherer forage nomad	Day 1 Homework	
Day 2: How did life for humans change during the Neolithic Age and the Bronze Age? Date: Thursday, 9/19	I can identify topics, main ideas, and details in a text to determine how life changed for humans in the Neolithic and Bronze Ages.	topic main idea detail Neolithic Age Bronze Age systematic agriculture domestication permanent villages civilizations class divisions power of men and women	Day 2 Homework	
Day 3: Where did the first largescale human societies arise? Date: Monday, 9/23	I can make predictions about the development of human history by making inferences based on evidence from secondary historical texts.	first human societies	Day 3 Homework	

A Unit on

Canvas

- Each unit is divided into daily lessons that correspond with the Unit Planner.
- All materials for lessons are posted on Canvas.
- Assignments are also listed under each daily header.













24-25 MS

Home

Assignments

Grades Modules

SS Textbook 6-8

 Introduction Unit RICK Scores for Unit

RICK, 9/16-9/20

Day 1

Day 2

Day 3

Signed Syllabus Form

Day 4

@ Introduction Unit, Day 4 Classwork F3

Day 5

Day 6

Introduction Unit, Day 6 Classwork

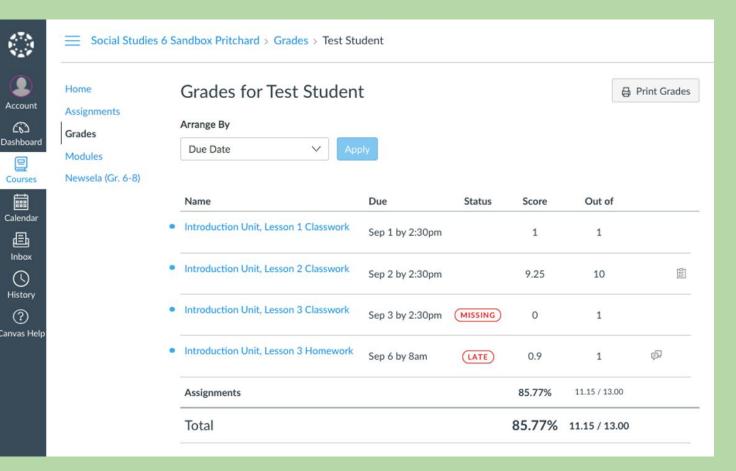
Day 7

Collapse All

Grades and Assignments

Classwork and Homework	40%	Assigned daily and graded using a standard rubric posted with the assignments on Canvas	
Summative Assignments	50%	Include end-of-unit tests, document-based writing responses (DBQs), and group projects	
RICK	10%	 Weekly score for Arriving to class on time Bringing required materials to class Completing start-of-class routine Completing end-of-class routine Working with seriousness, focus, and curiosity 	

Grades on Canvas



Please note that missing and late assignments are highlighted for students.

Canvas Inbox

- with questions
- about absences
- with concerns



Social Studies 06 - Pritchard > Pages > Home Page

24-25 MS

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Assignments

Modules

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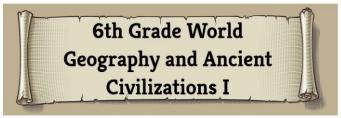
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Canvas H

Home Page



Student Office Hours: Thursdays Before School From 7:15-7:45

Parent Office Hours (By Appointment): Tuesdays Before School from 7:15-7:45

Course Syllabus B







Unit Planner ⊟



Immersive Reader

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Unit Plann



Unit Planner



Unit Planner



Helt Diseases



Unit Planner



Community Matters

Most Fridays, we pause social studies instruction to focus on "matters" that are important to our classroom community because, community "matters."

While topics and skills covered are flexible based on need, in the past, lessons have focused on...

- Relationship-building
- Collaboration
- Emotions and mindfulness
- Gratitude
- Cognitive flexibility and growth mindset
- Friendship

Office Hours

My student office hours are Thursday mornings before school from 7:15-7:45.

Students can come with questions, complete a weekly check-in, or just work independently in a supervised work space.

My parent office hours are by appointment on Tuesday mornings before school from 7:15-7:45.

English Language Arts

A Few Basics to Get Us Started:

- Me! Zoe Borden (Ms. Borden to your students)—I am here to support you and your students! Please reach out to me (elizabeth_borden@psbma.org) with individual questions or concerns
- My office hours (for your student)!
 Mondays 2:30-3:00 your student can also reach out to me via
 Canvas message
- My office hours (for you)!
 Tuesdays 7:15-7:45, by appointment

Some big picture considerations for middle school ELA

What is taught in 6th grade ELA is dictated by the <u>Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks</u> published by DESE.

- The domains included in ELA as determined by DESE are...
 - Reading literature (fiction, poetry, plays)
 - Reading informational texts (nonfiction)
 - Writing
 - Speaking and listening
 - Language (grammar and vocabulary)

How these things are taught are determined by district selected curriculum and (to a certain extent) teachers!

- The district is currently conducting a curriculum review for English Language Arts
- New curriculum is being reviewed this year. The selected new curriculum will likely reach the middle school classrooms in the school year 25-26
- More information is available via the <u>district website</u>. I may be able to answer some of your questions about this process, but this a district led initiative and questions may need to be referred to district leaders.

A word on this new phase in your students learning

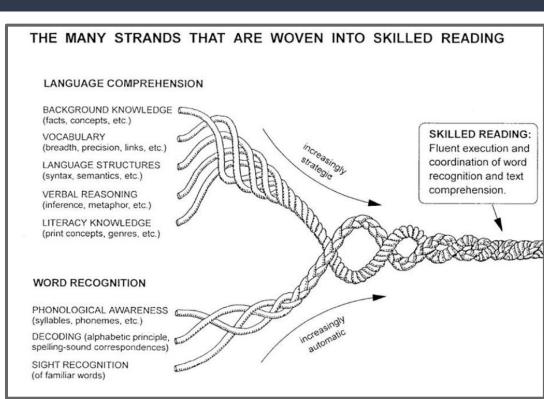
Children learn to read in stages:

Your students have progressed from 'learning to read' to 'reading to learn.'

What that means is that their reading takes on new purpose. Students are reading to broaden their perspectives and to gain new knowledge. The focus shifts from comprehension to analysis.

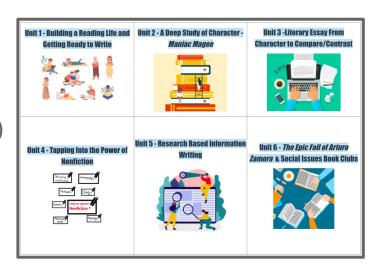
Similarly the goal of student writing evolves. Students are practicing expressing their opinions and perspectives in precise and nuanced ways.

This is a process that will continue throughout their middle school years.



Curricular Units of Study:

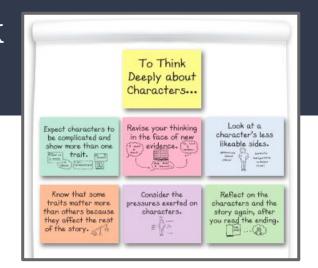
- A Deep Study of Character (Maniac Magee used as mentor text)
- The Literary Essay: From Character to Compare and Contrast (with bonus mini unit on poetry)
- Tapping into the Power of Nonfiction (Braiding Sweetgrass used as mentor text; then book clubs!)
- Research-Based Information Writing An introduction to research skills and then explicit writing instruction
- Social Issues Book Clubs: Reading for Empathy and Advocacy (Unit mentor text The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora)

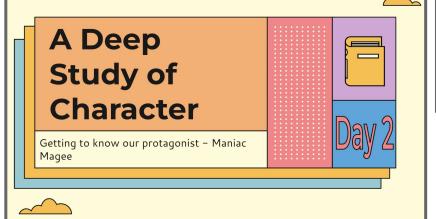


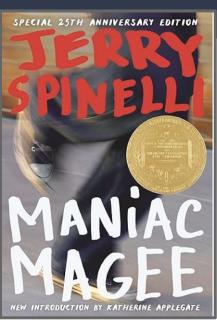
What does class look like?

My goals:

- Students read something and write something everyday
- Students talk to their peers about their work everyday
- Students feel their efforts are valued and their opinions and feelings are considered







What does grading look like?

The Nuts and Bolts:

 80% - Assignments (Bi quarterly reader's notebook checks, end of unit and mid unit assessments, classwork)

 10% - Homework (Evolves with the curriculum, for quarter one reading logs!)

• 10% - Monthly Engagement and Participation

Scores

Name:Reading Log (Distributed 9/27- Due 9/30)				
Date	<u>Title</u> and Author	Start Page	End Page	One Sentence Summary: The most important thing that happened in your book today be specific and as detailed as you can be!
Tuesday				
Wednesday				
Thursday				

Often students will submit work in class on paper, then I will grade, via paper rubric, and send a copy of their writing and rubric with feedback home with your student. Ask your student to see their work/rubric!

oate: Section:					
	5 - Exemplary	4 - Strong	3 - Proficient	2 - Lacking	1 - Incomplete
Content (10 points)	Beview contains all required content elements (as outlined in the student writing checkin). Hements are presented specifically, thoroughly, and with detail.	Review contains all required content elements (as outlined in the student setting checklist). The presentation of some elements lacks specificity, thoroughness, and detail.	Revises contains most content elements (as cathined in the student wetting checklast). The presentation of some elements lacks specificity, thoroughness, and detail.	Beview contains most content elements (as outlined in the student writing checklast), but presentation of most elements lacks specificity, thoroughness, and detail.	Bevious lacks required contents elements (as outlined in the student writing checklist).
Style	Review demonstrates excellent welting style and fluorey (for specific parameters reference student charking). Boxiew meets length and formatting requirements outlined in the checklist.	Review demonstrates strong writing style and fluency (for specific perameters reference student checking). Review resolity meets and formatting requirements outlined in the checking	Beriese contains some floency errors shideh distract from the style of the writing (for specific parameters reference student checkins). Heriew partially meets and formatting continuous continuous descriptions of containing continuous and outlined in the checklists.	Review contains some fluency errors which distract from the style of the writing (for specific parameters reference student checklist). Review does not meet length and formatting requirements outlined in the checklist.	Review cortains significant fluency errors which distract from the style of the weiting (for specific parameters reference student checklas). Beview doos not meet length and formatting requirements outlined in the checklas.
Process	Student worked seriously throughout the project to produce their best work.	Student mostly worked seriously throughout the project to produce their best work.	Student mostly worked seriously throughout the project to produce their best work.	Student generally did not work seriously throughout the project to produce their best work.	Student had serious struggles throughout the project.

How can you support your student?

Of all the skills we practice in 6th grade ELA, independent reading is perhaps the most important. There is ample evidence that strong independent reading habits support long term student success. But it is worth remembering that independent reading is more than a school skill. Independent reading can and should be a joyful and relaxing experience, it supports lifelong learning, creativity, critical thinking, and empathy.

You can support your child by making space for independent reading reading in your home and in their schedules. You can also model independent reading and talk to your child about how reading and writing skills continue to be instrumental in your lives. Ask your child about what they are reading! Ask them what they think about their reading! Encourage them to share their thoughts and opinions. Help them access books that interest them!



English Language Education



Kirsten Konefal

Masters Degree in Education Specialty: English as a Second Language

Office Hours: Friday 7:30-8:00 or email for an appointment. kirsten_konefal@psbma.org





English Language Education is for students who:

- are in grades K-12 and speak or are exposed to more than one language at home
- need support in understanding English used in the classroom and by peers





What does my child do in EL class?

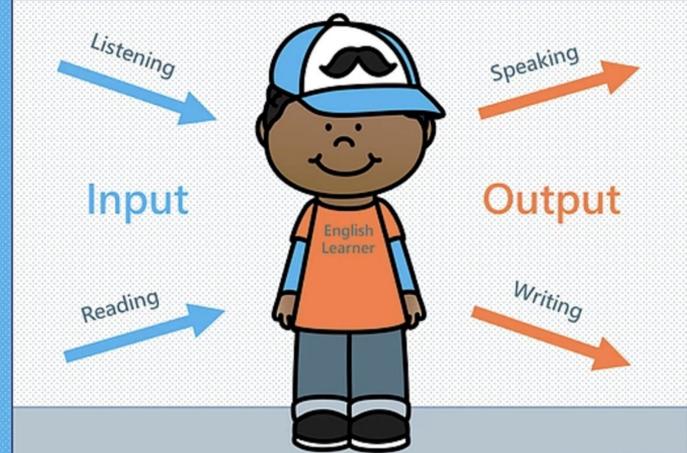
We work on reading. writing. listening and speaking.

We cover Language Arts. Math. Science and Social Studies.

Students work on-on-one. in small groups and use technology ..



The Four Domains of English Language Development



Languag



How do I know if my child is learning?

- Progress Reports
- Report Cards
- ACCESS testing
- phone calls or emails
- updates from classroom teachers





What is the ACCESS test?

- test given in January to <u>all</u> students in the U.S. who qualify for EL services
- · assesses reading, writing, listening and speaking
- · Results are available in May.
- Students who receive a 4.2 no longer qualify for services.





Should my child continue learning our home language?

YES!!

Research shows that continuing to use and improve home language while learning a second language has MANY benefits.





How often do you meet with my child?

six times per week for 45 minutes during the ELA block.





How can I help my child?

- · Ask your child about their day.
- Encourage your child to read in BOTH languages.
- Find opportunities for your child to be social in English.
- · Help with homework in any way you can.
- · Go to the library for events.
- · Communicate with your child's teachers.
- · Allow for rest time Your child is working hard all day.







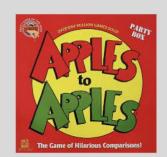
Games are great!



















Questions?

Kirsten Konefal kirsten_konefal@psbma.org

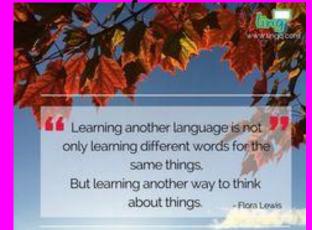


Español - Sexto Grado (6th grade)

Bienvenidos a la clase de Español



¡Hola, qué tal!



Profe Señora Cecilia Costanzo



My background

- Native Spanish speaker born, raised, and educated in Argentina
- Bachelor degree in Biology
- Master in Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Admin
- I began my teaching career as a preschool teacher in Argentina and since then I taught in all educational levels.
- Arrived to USA 20 years ago
- Specialized in Teaching of Spanish Language
- Bilingual/Bicultural English-Spanish educator
- I've been working in Brookline for 18 years
- Before working as a teacher I worked for a publisher editing Spanish textbooks

Spanish I - Beginning Language

What is "Beginning Language" in Brookline?

- **Spanish I** includes = 6th, 7th, 8th grade at different levels of proficiency
- Your child is taking Spanish I beginning in opposition to other students in Brookline who are continuing with the language
- Your child have Spanish three times per week this year

Communicative way and proficiency levels

The goal is to learn how to communicate in Spanish.

- We will be focusing on proficiency which means how well a person is able to communicate in a real world situation using the target language.
- Little room for grammar but we will focus on linguistic structures

Where is my child?

Levels of Proficiency For Spanish I				
NOVICE 6 gr - 7th gr	INTERMEDIATE 8th gr / 9th gr	ADVANCE High School		
Novice Low/Mid	Novice High Intermediate Low Intermediate Mid			
Novice High	Intermediate Mid Intermediate High			

Curriculum Content

What my child will learn this year?

- O Greetings and introductions
- O Ask and answer for personal information
- O Talk about familiar topics like weather, school, sports, family and friends
- O Talk about likes and dislikes
- O Use of authentic resources like songs and poems
- O Cultural topics on different Spanish Speaking countries

Expectations

What should I encourage my child to do for Spanish?

- Teacher will speak in Spanish at least 90% of the time.
- Students will use as much Spanish as possible in class, both in the large group and in pairs.
- Students will attentively watch authentic videos in Spanish with the intent to understand them and enjoy.
- Students will read authentic articles in Spanish with the intent to understand and enjoy.
- Students must come to class prepared, be respectful of others, and complete homework assignments on time.
- Daily participation is a must

Type of Assessments

Modes of communication

- O Presentational Speaking
- O Interpersonal Speaking
- O Presentational Writing
- O Interpretive listening /watching
- O Interpretive reading
- O Daily participation is very importa...



How I will measure progress

Proficiency

The ability

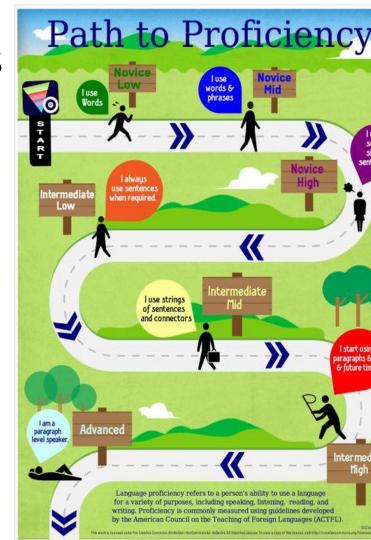
to use the language

to communicate something

with purpose.

Expected level of proficiency

by the end of 6th grade is Novice Mid



Novice Low Novice Mid



Novice High

Intermediate Low Intermediate Mid

Canvas grades

I will continue using standard based grading in Canvas assignments and tests.

The target for the end of the year is Novice Mid Established.

EXTENDING

EXT

- Student demonstrates understanding through extension.
- · Student actively seeks other ways to expand knowledge.
- If using Mastery Learning Gradebook in Canvas, may be viewed as a "4."

ESTABLISHED



- Student meets the end-of-the-year target.
- Student demonstrates understanding of content and skills by independently applying new knowledge.
- If using Mastery Learning Gradebook in Canvas, may be viewed as a "3."

DEV Student is a skills with a

2

- Student is developing understanding of content and skills with support.
- If using Mastery Learning Gradebook in Canvas, may be viewed as a "2."

BEGINNING

BEG

- Student is beginning to understand content and skills and requires consistent support.
- If using Mastery Learning Gradebook in Canvas, may be viewed as a "1."

NY

NOT YET

- Student is not yet showing evidence of initial understanding & is having significant difficulty.
- If using Mastery Learning Gradebook in Canvas, may be viewed as a "0."

Proficiency levels into letter grades

End of the year target: Novice Mid Established

4. Extended	3. Established	2. Developing (Beginning +)	1. Beginning	0. Not yet
A+	A / A-	B+ / B / B-	C+ / C / C-	D+ / D / D-

In Quarter 1 letter grades are scaled with a target of Novice Low.

Participation and effort are necessary to improve and it is a different grade separated from language performance

Behavior is also a separate grade from performance and effort/participation.

How to succeed in Spanish

As a parent you can help your child by:

- O Checking that Spanish homework is done
- O Asking your child to review notes every day
- O Asking your child if he/she participates in class daily
- O Motivating him/her to ask the teacher for help, if needed
- O Asking your child to keep high expectations for himself/herself as Spanish should be enjoyable

Communication

O Please, if you need to communicate with me email me to arrange a meeting at:

- O Cecilia Costanzo@psbma.org
- Office hours: Mondays 2:30 to 3:00

O ¡Gracias y feliz año!

SCIENCE

A Little About Me



Education

- I earned my B.S. in Geosciences (Hydrogeology emphasis) with a minor in Water Resources and Watershed Management from Penn State, 2004
- I earned my M.Ed from Boston College (Secondary Science Education), 2008

Teaching

- This is my 14th year at Driscoll teaching 6th grade and 8th year teaching 7th grade Science
- I have also taught Earth Science at Framingham High and 7th grade math and science in Gloucester

<u>Other</u>

 I worked as a geologist in site management for petroleum remediation prior to becoming a teacher.

Course Overview

- Introductory Unit Science SKills
- Chemistry
 - Thermal Energy Transfer
 - Solids, Liquids, and Gases
 - What causes Reactions
 - Molecules/Models
 - Physical and chemical properties
- Weather and Ocean Systems
 - Analyze Basic Weather Data
 - Use basic physics and chemistry concepts to answer questions
 - Density cycles
 - How oceans can impact weather and climate
- Life Science
 - Human Body Systems Overview of all systems and parts and how they interact
 - Cells Make All Living Things; Types and parts
 - Differences between plant and animal cells

My Responsibilities to You

- I will communicate clearly and make sure we're all on the same page
- I will treat every student with respect and fairness
- I will make sure everyone has the resources and support they need to succeed this year

LATE WORK POLICY:

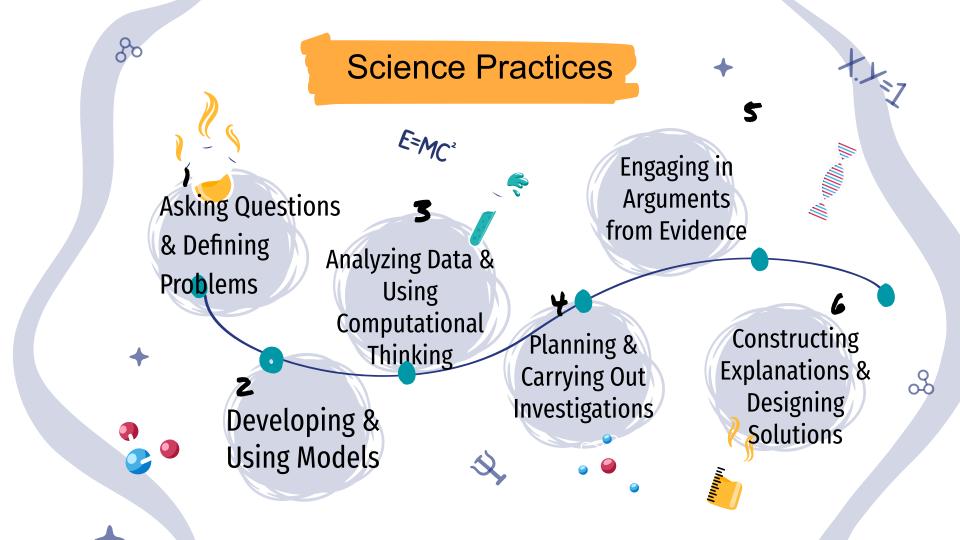
Due dates must be honored. Full credit will be given only to projects turned in on time. The following is the policy for late ASSIGNMENTS:

A) First 10 school days – 5% off of grade each day it is late B) More than 10 school days late – max score is 50% on the assignment

We care more about effort and mastery than grades. Therefore, if students do poorly on a lab or project, Students will have the opportunity to make corrections and reassess material to show that you have learned the material, and earn back points.

Our Year

UNIT	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	NUT
CHEMISTRY										
Weather + Oceanography										
CELLS + METABOLIC REACTIONS										



So far in science...

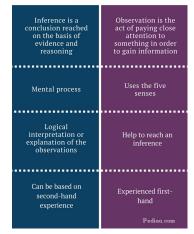
Metric Units



Name	The Number	Prefix	Symbol
trillion	1,000,000,000,000	tera	Т
billion	1,000,000,000	giga	G
million	1,000,000	mega	M
thousand	1,000	kilo	k
hundred	100	hecto	h
ten	10	deka	da
unit	1		
tenth	0.1	deci	d
hundredth	0.01	centi	c
thousandth	0.001	milli	m
millionth	0.000 001	micro	μ
billionth	0.000 000 001	nano	n
trillionth	0.000 000 000 001	pico	р

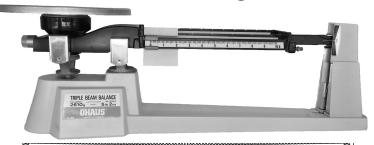
Quantity	Base Unit	Abbreviation	
length	meter	m	
Mass	gram	g	
volume	Liter	L	
time	second	s	

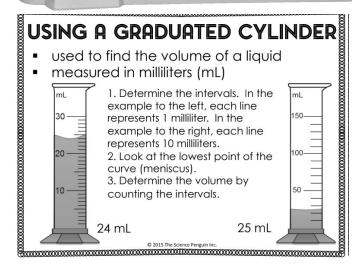
INFERENCE VERSUS OBSERVATION





Measuring





Science

How To Get Extra Help

I will not be available during most students WIN blocks during the school day. However, I will be available after school on **Mondays from 2:30 until 3:10 pm for Office Hours**. I can also be available at other times if Mondays don't work for your student. If your student is having a difficult time or do not find the work challenging enough, please talk to us and we can set up a plan to accommodate you. **If students are absent please have them contact me to get caught up.** Again communication is very important.

eric hazlinsky@psbma.org

Learning Center - Ms. Thorne

Education:

- I have a B.A in Social Sciences and a M.Ed in Moderate Disabilities (pre-k to 8) from Boston College. I am a double eagle :)
- This is my 3rd year as a special education teacher at Driscoll
- Prior to working at Driscoll, I worked at William H. Lincoln as a paraprofessional in basically every grade k-8, including a year working in the Adaptive Learning Center.



Learning Center - Ms. Thorne

Learning center is tailored to meet the needs of students on IEPS.

Focus areas can include, but not limited to:

- Reading and Writing
- Math support
- Executive Functioning

Chinese - Ms. Cao

Themes and topics

- □ Greetings!(你叫什么名字?)
- Family members(我的家人)
- □ Friends and school(朋友和学校)
- ☐ Chinese holidays and 12 zodiac animals (
- □ Food meals and drinks(食物)
- □ Sports and leisure activities (体育和活动)
- □ Countries and languages(国家和语言)
- School subjects(学校科目)



G6 Chinese on Canvas

Students can...

- Access each unit of instruction
- Access the posted assignments
- Submit completed work
- Send me messages with questions / concerns, or about absences.

24-25 MS Chinese 06 - Cao

Home

Modules

Assignments

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Rubrics

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Discussions

Announcements

Outcomes

People

Files Syllabus

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Collaborations

Settings

& Assign To





BROOKLINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS









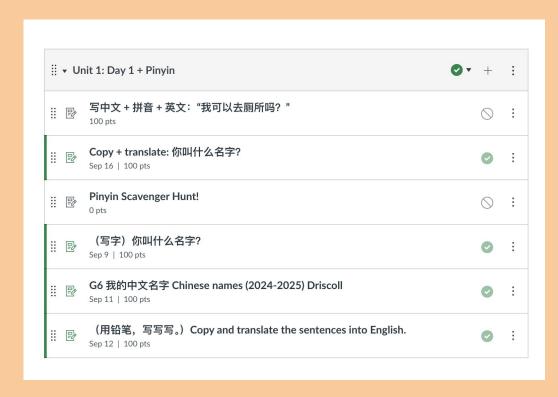


Course Modules Course Resources

Message the Instructor

A typical unit on Canvas - G6 Chinese

- Each unit consists of classwork, homework and assessments.
- Depending on the content of the unit, sometimes a project is included.
- All materials for lessons are posted on Canvas.
- All assignments are posted and submitted online.



Office Hours - G6 Chinese

My office hours are Wednesday afternoons after school from 2:30-3:00pm.

Or make an appointment with me:

xiaoxue_cao@psbma.org