



Caledonia Park School
3206 Coady Blvd
Leduc, AB T9E 7J8
780-986-7888

August 28, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

My name is Pam Sims (she/her) and I am excited to work with your family this year. Grade 6 is a blast! I enjoy the books we read, the new math concepts (Hello, Algebra!), discussing democracy, and learning about space! This year will look a little different than years past as we implement a new curriculum but I am here to guide and support you. I look forward to getting to know your student and helping them grow as they become responsible, active citizens.

Communication

I believe that in order for students to have the most successful year possible, there must be effective parent-teacher communication.

- Email is the best way to contact me. I will check my emails at the end of each school day and will respond to emails by the end of the next school day. This allows me to focus on the students when they are here. If you ever need to contact me or your child during the school day, please call the office. They will be able to pass on messages.
- Each day, we will write an agenda message on Google Classroom. Our agenda may include information about what we have covered, any upcoming tests, and due dates.
- Marks, missing, and incomplete assignments will be communicated through PowerSchool. If you need help setting it up, please contact the office.
- Special events and whole school information will be communicated through the weekly email blasts from the **office** or the **Monthly Newsletter** (<https://cps.blackgold.ca/parents/newsletters/>). Field Trip notices will also be sent this way. My goal is to minimize the number of emails you are receiving.
- You may reach me at the school at (780) 986-7888 or email me at pamela.sims@gshare.blackgold.ca. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Class Information

Our Classroom

- Our class will be in Room 165. It is the last room in the Division 2 hallway, facing the field.
- Students will come in through the doors nearest the blue park. We are the first door on the left.
- Our boot rack is just outside the classroom door. It will say 6S above it.

Lockers and Backpacks

- Students will have access to their lockers this year!
- If your student needs additional materials throughout the year, it will be their responsibility to communicate these needs at home. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Agenda

- Students will have daily agendas. The goal is to model an organizational tool that works for many people. They are expected to write important dates in it. We will also be using it to write something good that happened that date or something they are grateful for.
- If a student misplaces their agenda they will need to find an alternative or replacement.
- Our agenda message is on Google Classroom each day. This is how I will communicate our current learning goals. We will also list any important dates (assignments, tests, events).

Homework

- I know it is challenging for families to find time to do homework with their busy schedules, therefore I will not often give homework. However:
 - Students who practice their basic facts (adding, subtraction, multiplying and dividing) are more efficient when completing complex math problems. Basic fact practice is encouraged. I am happy to share more basic fact games or websites that we can tailor to your child's needs.
 - If students choose not to use their class time wisely **OR** need more time than most of their classmates (which is totally okay!) they may have incomplete work. They will be expected to finish on their own time.
 - Occasionally, I will send home "TV watching homework". These are tasks that take time but are not challenging academically (colouring, cutting, etc.). This frees up time in class to complete the more challenging assignments. They DO NOT need to watch TV while doing them! It is just what I refer to them as.
- Students are expected to practice and review for tests and quizzes on their own time. Occasionally, I will send home review packages. It is up to students to utilize them and ask questions as needed.

Missed School Work Due to Unforeseen Absences (Ex. Illness, Family Emergencies)

- If your child misses a day, they are responsible for checking Google Classroom to find out what content was covered and upcoming due dates. It is expected that students complete their missing work when they return to school to prevent falling behind.
- If your child is at home sick, I encourage them to focus on recovering. If your child misses 2 consecutive days and they feel well enough, it is encouraged that they work on missed content at home to prevent having multiple days of work to catch up when returning to school. The textbooks will be available on Google Classroom. If they need handouts, I am happy to place them in the office to be picked up. You or your child may reach out to me via email.
- If your child is absent or if they are unsure about upcoming dates (tests, assignments, etc.), you can view the message on Google Classroom. If you are looking at their agenda and it seems sparse, I would double-check there.

Missed School Work Due to Scheduled Absences (Ex. Holidays)

- If your child will be absent for any known reason, I encourage them to find a homework buddy and check Google Classroom. They will be responsible for submitting any missed assignments.
- Once they have used both of these resources, they may email me to request any specific handouts if they are not already on Classroom.

Home Reading

- Students should be reading for 20 to 30 minutes per day.
- Reading is the most important task a student can do to improve their overall achievement in school.
- I encourage students to explore a variety of text types (both fiction and non-fiction).
- Students will be sent home with a home reading log. Once they complete their home reading log, please have them bring it back for a chance to win a free game of Laser Tag at Laser City for two!

Devices

- Students are strongly encouraged to bring their own Chromebook or computer. Although the school does have some on-site, we do not have a one-to-one ratio, and therefore, they will be shared amongst students.
- Cell phones are not allowed during class. If you need to communicate with your child during the day, please call the office.

Lunch

- Students will go out for recess first (11:50-12:15) and then eat lunch in the classroom (12:15-12:43).
- Students do not have access to a microwave

Snack

- Snacks are allowed to be eaten during class time.
- Students will be allowed to pick 2 snack items from their lunches and keep them on their desks during the day. All snacks during class time must be food items such as fruit, vegetables, whole grains, or proteins like cheese or seeds. These foods will help fuel your child for learning.

Water Bottles

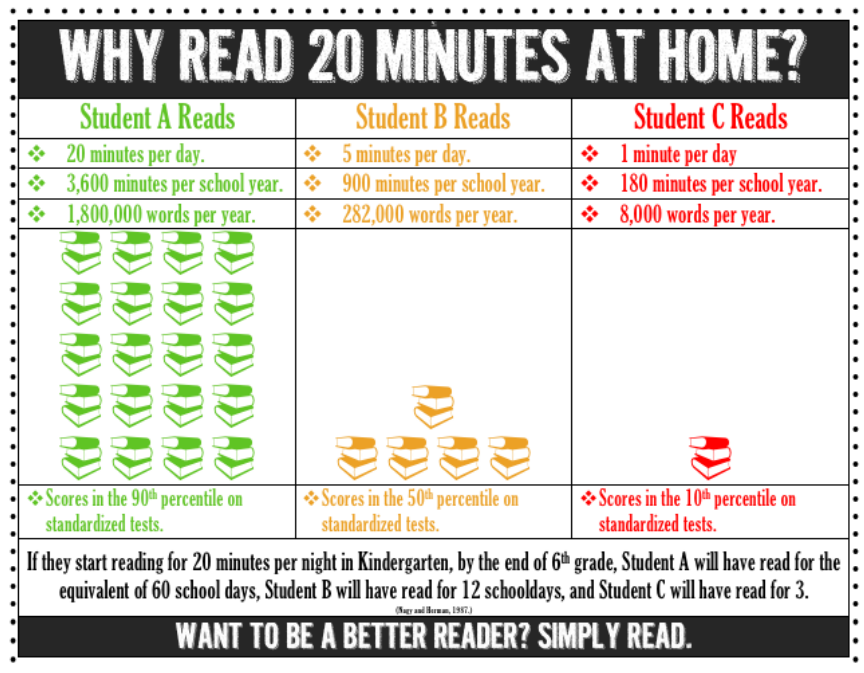
- I ask that all students bring a reusable water bottle to class which can be filled up during break times to avoid interruptions during class time. Please make sure it has a lid and his/her name on it.
- Please remind your child that **only water** is allowed to be brought in their bottles.

Science

- Mrs. Hoy will be teaching Science to 6S. If you have any questions specifically regarding Science she can be reached at kayla.hoy@gshare.blackgold.ca.

Physical Education/DPA

- Phys Ed will be taught by Mr. Hayes on Day 3 and 5. If you have any questions specifically regarding P.E. he can be reached at spencer.hayes@gshare.blackgold.ca.
- DPA will be taught by Mr. Dykstra on Day 1 and 4. If you have any questions specifically regarding DPA he can be reached at theo.dykstra@gshare.blackgold.ca.
- Phys. Ed and DPA classes will be held indoors or outdoors throughout the year.



- Please ensure your child has the appropriate clothing for each season. This includes inside shoes (no black/marking soles) and outside shoes (depending on the activity/weather), snow pants/jackets, raincoats, hats, etc.

I ask that you please speak with your child on the importance of hygiene and ensure deodorant is provided and used regularly. It is recommended that students have an extra deodorant at school should they need it.

Library

- Students go to the library for one class once a week on Day 3. Each student will be able to check out two books from the library. One book must be appropriately challenging, and one can be a free-choice book. This ensures that your child is choosing books that allow them to grow as a reader.
- Please have your child's books returned on library day (Day 3).

Music

- Grade 6 will have two music classes per week taught by Mrs. Larson. If you have any questions specifically regarding Music she can be reached at lynsey.larsen@gshare.blackgold.ca.

School Information

Schedule

- We are on a DAY 1-5 schedule and our bell schedule can be found [HERE](#) on our school website.

Morning Routine & Absences

- Students will enter/exit the school through the doors that back onto the south playground. Doors open at 8:05 am (7:50 am when the weather is below -20 Celsius). Please ensure they are at school for the 8:10 bell.
- If your child is absent, please contact the office at (780) 986-7888, or send an email to cps.studentabsence@blackgold.ca.
 - It is helpful for me to know when your child is away so I can post their missing work on Google Classroom, so a quick email would be appreciated. You can also cc me on the email to the office.

Other

- There are no more early dismissals.
- Hot Lunch, Bake Sale, and Popcorn Days will be posted on the school's website and the newsletter.
- Birthday/class treats are permitted but please touch base with me prior to the day. Please send me an email if you would like to bring a treat so I can make sure that all treats meet student allergy requirements.

Newsletters

- All school newsletters will be uploaded to our school website and can be viewed [HERE](#).

Curriculum

- To access more information regarding the Alberta curriculum & what your child will be learning this year, click [HERE](#).

I look forward to partnering with you to help your child succeed this year!

Thank you,

Mrs. Pamela Sims