

Second, the district is integrating a new program called Power School that the students can use to keep each other informed about homework, clarify assignments, or even get copies of worksheets posted. If your child is unsure of an assignment or is out ill, they can go through my website or Power School to obtain any and all assignments that are due the following day. I really want the kids to be in charge of their learning, and I highly encourage peer collaboration to promote responsibility for all work. Finally, you or your child can email me directly with any questions or concerns at kim.macgregor@eusd.net.

I will email all important letters, upcoming dates and events directly to parents in an attempt to alleviate the paper footprint. Much of the student work will be done using websites and apps on the iPads. Parents will have the ability to log into those student accounts directly to see how their student is doing academically. Graded paper based assignments that are pertinent will be sent home - usually on Monday.

Now is the time to develop those all-important study and research skills that will be required for the remainder of your student's academic career. As we continue to dive into Common Core, students will be expected to complete a variety of projects, including book reports of different genres that will be assigned approximately every three weeks, self-monitored reading journals, weekly to bi-weekly writing assignments, a STREAM project, Makerspace projects, as well as several other activities to reinforce these skills. As a result, little time will be left for "extra" homework. I will expect all reading for book reports and research based activities to be done at home, at least 30-40 minutes nightly. Therefore, there is no such thing as a "no homework night." In most cases, I provide ample time to finish most daily assignments in class, leaving homework time for reading and special projects. This will encourage your student to budget their class time more effectively; however, all daily assignments are due the following morning at the 8:05 am check in. Please be patient for the first few weeks. My expectations for your child are very high, and I will expect them to be responsible, organized, and on task. I feel that it is my job to prepare your students for the rigor of junior high and high school but...I am also a firm believer in "life after school." If work is not completed on time, the students will have the opportunity to complete the assignment during recess or lunch and turn it in by the end of the day for reduced credit. If the missing assignment is not received by the end of the day, they will simply receive a zero for the assignment. It is not my job to "police" your child and hound them for their work (I will gently remind them that they have the choice to complete it at recess or lunch during check-in). They must learn to be responsible and choose to get it done on their own. I will check the work in at the beginning of the day, and I will look for late assignments at the end of the day. If completing homework proves to be a chronic problem for any student, they will be "enrolled" in my Breakfast Club which will be explained at Back to School night. I hope that you will support my efforts to demand responsibility and organization - after all, this is how the real world works.

Hmm...some of you may be wondering about the Dickinson/MacGregor play. What will it be this year? Well, we don't know-yet. We always like to get a "feel" for our students and match the play to our classroom dynamics for the year. Now, I realize that some of you may be shouting, "Yeah! I can't wait to be on stage!" and some of you may be shouting, "Get me outta this class! No way I'm going to sing and dance in front of my peers!" Okay, here's the deal: no one will be required to do the play if they choose not to. Let me reiterate - no one will have to do the play - it will be on a voluntary basis. However, I do ask that you keep an open mind. Studies do show that students who participate in the arts are more successful than those who are not exposed to that kind of experience. Additionally, last

year we raised over \$5,000.00 for the OPE EEF fund and Mr. D's India Foundation. We hope to better that amount this year.

I have already purchased many items for the class such as markers, sharpies, erasers, BARE books, items for special art projects, storage, and our Cuyamaca Camp Nametag supplies, etc. The PTA reimburses me a partial amount, but I am hoping that you will be able to send in \$12.00 (payable to K. MacGregor) to cover the remainder of the supplies.

Lastly, the sixth grade team hosts a Marathon Club to get our students out and running – so please make certain that your student has a good pair of gym shoes. Don't worry if you're not a runner, neither am I - yet, and I will be running too – YIKES!

Now that you have read my "novelette," there is still so much I have to say. I look forward to seeing parents at Back to School Night on Thursday, September 31, from 6:30-7:10 pm, and I can't wait to see some old faces and new faces on Monday, August 21, at 8:00 am. I am still in room 208 behind the Media Center.

This year promises to be unique one...one of intriguing novel reading, intensive creative writing, a look at the ancient world that shaped who we are (perhaps we will learn some of the "old" skills - sewing, cooking, gardening, and canning), and a technological jump towards 21st century learning that will dictate who we will become. So, dust off your summer brain, top it with your best fedora and get ready to "dig" your way through an unforgettable year!

Kimberlee MacGregor

Supplies:

For the sake of organization, the most important supplies that students will need to bring are:

- a three-ring binder that is at least 1 1/2 to 2 inches thick. Students will be "living" out of their binders, so please choose a binder that can house most of their work and supplies. A zippered binder may be of benefit for this reason.
- a set of dividers (you will need at least **8 dividers**)
- a pencil bag that can clip into the binder and hold a FEW pencils, correcting pen, scissors, and any other supplies from the list below that you or your child deems necessary.
- a **minimum** of 4 pocket folders that are hole punched (Mead folders are best or vinyl folders). These folders will be necessary to hold small journals that the kids will be keeping in certain subjects. If your child is particularly disorganized it may be best to purchase 8. Remember no desk to shove papers into.
- pencils, correcting pens (remember, you don't need 1000 pencils or pens)
- earbuds for the iPad- this is a must!!!!
- a composition style notebook for writing - we write every day and I want the kids to have a special notebook to make writing more enjoyable. Notebook must be minimum 9 1/2 X 7 1/2 (Mead composition book or similar) or 12 X 10 (spiral notebook sized) or even an artist's style sketch book journal.

- Scissors - very important! We will be doing interactive notebooks and will need them
- Glue Sticks - at least two if not a pack- our school tends to go through glue sticks like water

Not so Important Supplies:

Items that your student may want but aren't necessary. Remember they must fit into their pencil pouch in their binder or in a small lidded pencil box that will be housed in their backpacks or cubby:

- small stapler
- colored pencils
- thin lined colored markers
- highlighter
- sharpie - black
- mechanical pencils w/ lead
- small pencil sharpener
- white board markers-our tables are white boards. Super cool!
- Stylus for the iPad - this comes in very handy

I realize that money is tight, as always, so I would appreciate it if you would consider supplying a few essentials such as colored white board markers, Clorox wipes, Kleenex, glue stix, and one ream of wide ruled notebook paper and one ream of copy paper that can be donated to the classroom. Please do not fill student binders up with paper; I will only remove it. I would also LOVE to have several sets of colored Sharpies and black Sharpies, as well as a **heavy-duty** pencil sharpener (X-Acto or Bostich puts out a good one).