



Welcome, 6B Superheroes!

Assalamu alaikum! It is a pleasure to finally meet you! In'shaa Allah this will be an amazing year for all of us! Let's all aim to grow together, to create a safe home in 6B, and to become better Muslims and leaders In'shaa Allah!

Who is that caped teacher?



My name is Sr. Maryam Mahmood and I am DELIGHTED to be your teacher for the upcoming 2014-2015 academic year. Teaching has been my dream ever since I was a child (even younger than you), so I am extremely grateful and blessed to have you as my class Alhamdulillah!

I have many goals for 6B, first of which is to create a classroom where we *all* are respected, feel safe and are comfortable enough to take risks and grow. As you can tell from this newsletter, I enjoy creativity and making learning fun, but my first priority is the well-being of everyone in our classroom. We are a team of heroes in 6B, and we all will In'shaa Allah work together to make our classroom our home away from home. I am a firm believer in respectful behaviour (both to myself and to your fellow classmates), so we will be working together the first few days on Tribes activities to In'shaa Allah build a strong community and establish our classroom rules. I respect all of you as my students and expect the same back.

If I were to describe myself as a teacher, I would probably say enthusiastic, organized and caring. In'shaa Allah this is how you will find me to be! I am a huge Raptors fan, I love chocolate and reading, and my superpower would probably be being able to laugh even when times are tough. I can't wait to meet you all and hear what yours are!

May Allah SWT make this a blessed year for all of us! Bismillah! Let's do this!



The year ahead



Grade 6 will In'shaa Allah be a challenging but rewarding year for all of us. The Grade 6 curriculum is full of many exciting and intriguing topics such as the Solar System and Flight, and it will be a busy year as we cover familiar areas and explore new ones. In addition, we will be doing the EQAO test in early June In'shaa Allah, so the entire year will have us preparing in one way or the other for it.

How will we have a successful year?

1. **Remain organized.** You will see very early on that I am VERY keen on remaining organized and expect the same from you. You should have binders for each subject (it's up to you whether you want to combine subjects) and all papers and handouts must be put in your binders the same day. I will be conducting binder checks every two weeks to make sure you are neat and organized In'shaa Allah. No scrunched-up papers at the bottom of your backpack!
2. **Do your homework!** This is something I will be quite strict with. Fill out your agenda carefully every day and make sure you get your work done. Each time homework is not completed, a 'Caught empty-handed' slip must be filled out. After three slips, a call will be made home to parents. Consistent issues with homework will result in speaking with the principal and department head, Br. Nizam.
3. **Ask for help if you need it.** I am always willing to give you extra help in any subject I teach, and Math remedial is set aside for Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30-4:15 pm. Even if I do not select you for remedial help, feel free to stay behind and get the extra reinforcement if you feel you need it! Br. Osman (Language and boys' Physed/health teacher) is also very friendly and willing to help In'shaa Allah. Remember, you need to take responsibility for your learning! I will help you in any way I can, but you need to be willing to seek help In'shaa Allah!
4. **Stay positive!!** 6B will In'shaa Allah be a place where we cheerfully work together to grow as leaders and students. It may get tough (especially when preparing for EQAO), but as long as we stay optimistic and keep making du'aa, we will do amazingly In'shaa Allah!



Our theme!

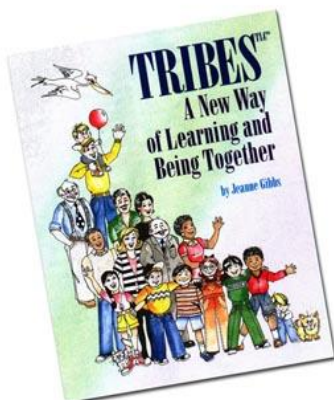


6B's theme for the year is how we can change the world. As superheroes in training, we will be starting the year setting goals, brainstorming ways to spread kindness and caring, and working on our leadership abilities. Throughout the year, we will be putting a focus on this topic, even as we cover the Ontario Curriculum. For example:

- In Social Studies Unit II, we will be learning about Canada's role in helping the less fortunate, different types of charities that exist, and initiatives such as Ryan's Well that show us that individuals can make a difference!
- In our first unit of Islamic Studies, we will be learning about good character and manners (Akhlaaq), as well as learning about the beautiful personality of Rasulullah (SAW) in later units.
- We will be learning about the power of art to help spur social and political change.

TRIBES

As our classroom is a Tribes classroom, we will be spending the first few days going over the four agreements and building our community. Tribes activities will be done throughout the year In'shaa Allah to promote inclusion and a strong community!



Agendas/planners

- Agendas must be filled out every day. Please see my previous note about completing homework. Make sure you fill in all homework, assignments, projects, tests, quizzes, and so on.
- Parents/guardians, please check your child's agenda every evening to ensure they have completed their homework. I will be writing any personal notes to you in the agenda as well, so please check for those In'shaa Allah.

Materials

Students, please make sure you have the following every day:

- All binders and notebooks for each subject
- Textbooks for that day
- Pens, pencils and erasers
- Calculator
- Ruler
- Running shoes and gym clothes Mon-Wed



Punctuality

All students must be at school at 8:20 am. Parents/guardians, please ensure that your child is on time and prepared for the day. Students who are consistently late will get a note written home and/or a phone call home.

When students enter, they will put their bags in their lockers and proceed to 6B (Room 123). No bags are allowed in the classroom, so please ensure you collect all necessary materials before you enter for the day.

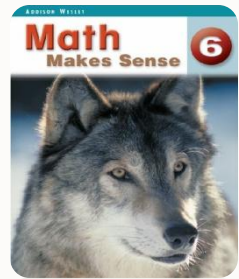
To begin the day, we will be participating in Daily Physical Activity (DPA), D.E.A.R. Reading Program or Numeracy Initiatives, depending on the day.

Please see the attached 6B Class schedule for an overview of the weekly schedule. Jazakallah!



Mathematics

The Math series we will be using is Math Makes Sense 6 (textbook and workbook), along with a variety of other resources. There are 11 units in Math, and we will cover them by the end of April In'shaa Allah. EQAO Review is scheduled for the entire month of May!



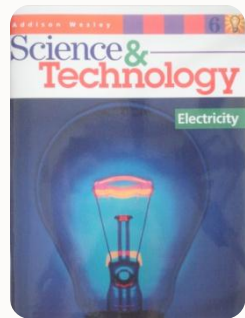
Language

Language will be taught to both classes by Br. Osman Senel (6A). Please see his website for further details.

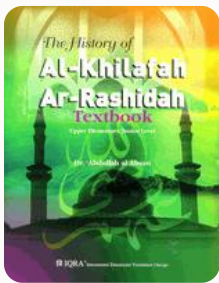
Science and Social Studies

For Science and Social Studies, we will be using a mixture of textbooks, workbooks, worksheets, hands-on activities, field trips and drama.

Each unit will have a different culminating activity, which we will discuss at the beginning of the unit, including the rubric/exemplars.



Islamic Studies



For Islamic Studies, we will be following the IQRA Curriculum, which has 5 strands: 1) Aqidah, Fiqh and Akhlaq; 2) Qur'anic Studies; 3) Sirah and Hadith; 4) Islamic History; 5) Islamic Social Studies.

We will be using a variety of textbooks and workbooks for this subject, including "Al Khilafah Ar-Rashidah."

Health and Physical Education

Girls' health and Phys-ed will be taught by me (Mon-Wed), while the boys will be taught by Br. Osman. Please ensure you are appropriately dressed for gym (baggy track pants, long-sleeved shirts, and running shoes). Jazakallah!



French and Qur'anic Studies

French will be taught by Br. Nizam, while Qur'anic Studies will be taught by Maulana Asad. Please see their respective websites for further details.



Website

Our class website is srmariam6b.weebly.com. Please visit it to see pictures, view course materials and links to important resources, watch videos, and more!

Closing thoughts

May Allah (SWT) bless this year with success, happiness and trust, Ameen. At the end of the day, 6B, our purpose in life is to worship Him! Let's strive to be the best Muslims and people we can possibly be.

Let's spread kindness, compassion, warmth and caring. Let's be examples for the rest of the Middle School community at IFS. Let's be examples for the rest of the world In'shaa Allah.

I said it before and I'll say it again: we can change the world. Small actions can make a large difference, even if we don't see it. I am excited to begin this year and begin making a difference with all of you In'shaa Allah!

