

Our Sixth Grade Transition Manual



A special thanks
is extended
to the 2012-2013 sixth graders
for all their
hard work, time, effort, and talent
in creating this manual for
future SMS sixth graders.

A is for After school

In **after** school, there are a wide variety of activities. There are clubs, such as the Rebel Pen and Earth Keepers. Sports become available in seventh grade. On some days, students can go to extra help for specific subjects. However, if you don't like this choice, you can go to intramurals. In intramurals, you can play sports with your friends or just stay with them. There are late buses for those students who take part in after-school activities. The late buses are at the main entrance of the school. Experience the after-school fun!



B is for Bells

At South Middle School, the **bell** rings to signal the start and end of each of the nine periods. The first bell rings at 8:20AM to begin homeroom. When a bell rings to end the period, you have four minutes to get to your next class before the bell rings to start the next class. Classes are usually 38 minutes, except for Tuesdays and Fridays when the classes are shorter because homeroom is extended. There are also bells to indicate the start and end of a fire drill. Our favorite bell is at 2:50PM because that signals the end of our long day.



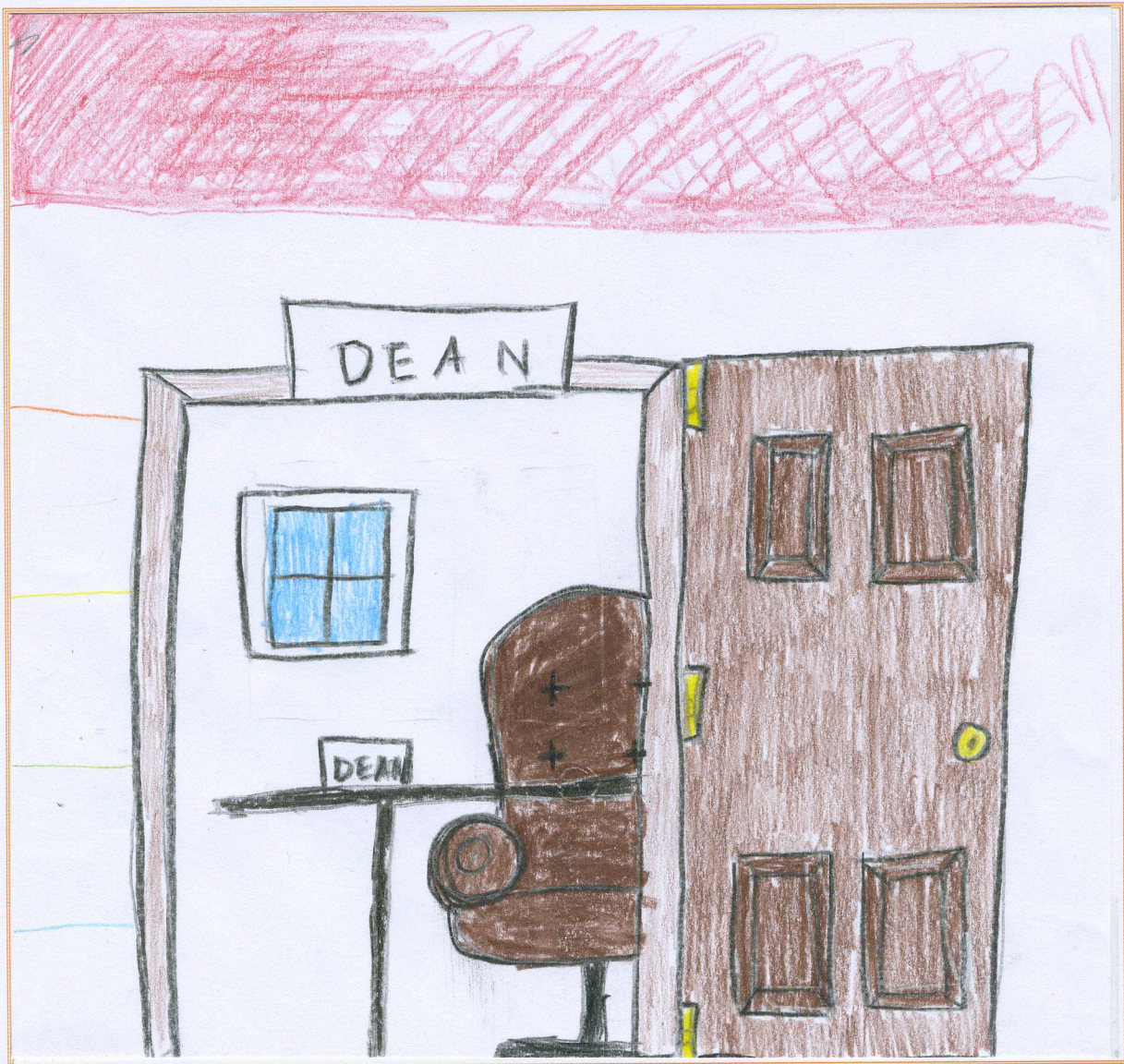
C is for Counselor

A guidance **counselor** is someone students turn to when they need help. A student may have the same guidance counselor for three years, so it's a good idea to get to know him/her. You can go to a guidance counselor when you have a problem, big or small. For example, if you want to change your cafeteria, you can ask your guidance counselor. You can also go to your guidance counselor if you have problems with your fellow students. The most important thing is not to be afraid of your guidance counselor because s/he is there to help you.



D is for Dean

The **dean** is not mean or scary like you might think, even though being sent to the dean can be intimidating. The dean is a very fair and forgiving person, but you will get whatever consequence you deserve, like detention. Detention is not as it is always portrayed in cartoons and books. It's not usually lonely. It is held in one of the rooms in the foreign language wing. Don't panic if you are called to the dean's office. You might just have information about something that happened in school. The dean's office is on the main floor, right across from the attendance office. I hope you never need to go there!



E is for Extra help

Extra help is given after school when you work more privately with a teacher on a specific subject. Extra help is held either after school or during lunch. Each teacher has his/her own day for extra help. However, you can always ask the teacher if they can help you, and they will most likely stay and help you one-on-one. You can also go to extra help if the teacher recommends it, if you are having trouble with a particular topic, or if you just want to get your work done with the support of the teacher. Extra help is also a great place to study for an approaching test. You can go to extra help everyday, except Fridays and when faculty meetings are scheduled.



F is for Flex

Flex is a period in the day in which we do a variety of activities. For ten weeks, five in the fall and five in the spring, you will have health. A health teacher will come into your class and talk about leading a healthy lifestyle. During this period, we prepare for the English and math state tests. This extra time gives us an opportunity to practice our skills. We also spend some time completing parts of the science, organism project during flex. Other team activities are done, as well. Flex stands for FLEXIBLE, and that is exactly what this period gives us.



G is for Greenkill

Pack your bags! **Greenkill** is a fun and educational program that takes place in up-state New York in the foothills of the Catskill Mountains. Every year, Greenkill expects a visit from the sixth graders of South Middle School. Not only do we go hiking and learn about animals and nature, but we also have a great time with our friends, teachers, and counselors. Fun and learning awaits the sixth grade at Greenkill. Have fun!



H is for Homeroom

Everyone starts their day at South Middle in **homeroom**. During homeroom, you watch HTV morning news on the Smartboard. On Tuesdays and Fridays homeroom is extended by ten minutes so you can read, study for tests, or do whatever your teacher has planned for you. Your locker is located outside your homeroom in the hall, and your homeroom teacher is also your first period teacher. Homeroom is a great way to get yourself organized for the day ahead of you.



I is for Intramurals

Intramurals are a place for kids to relax and play before or after school. You can play basketball and soccer; and if the gyms are full or if it is raining, you can go into the weight room. If you stay after school, you will take the late bus home; and since you cannot play a sport until seventh grade, intramurals are a way to have fun and get some exercise.



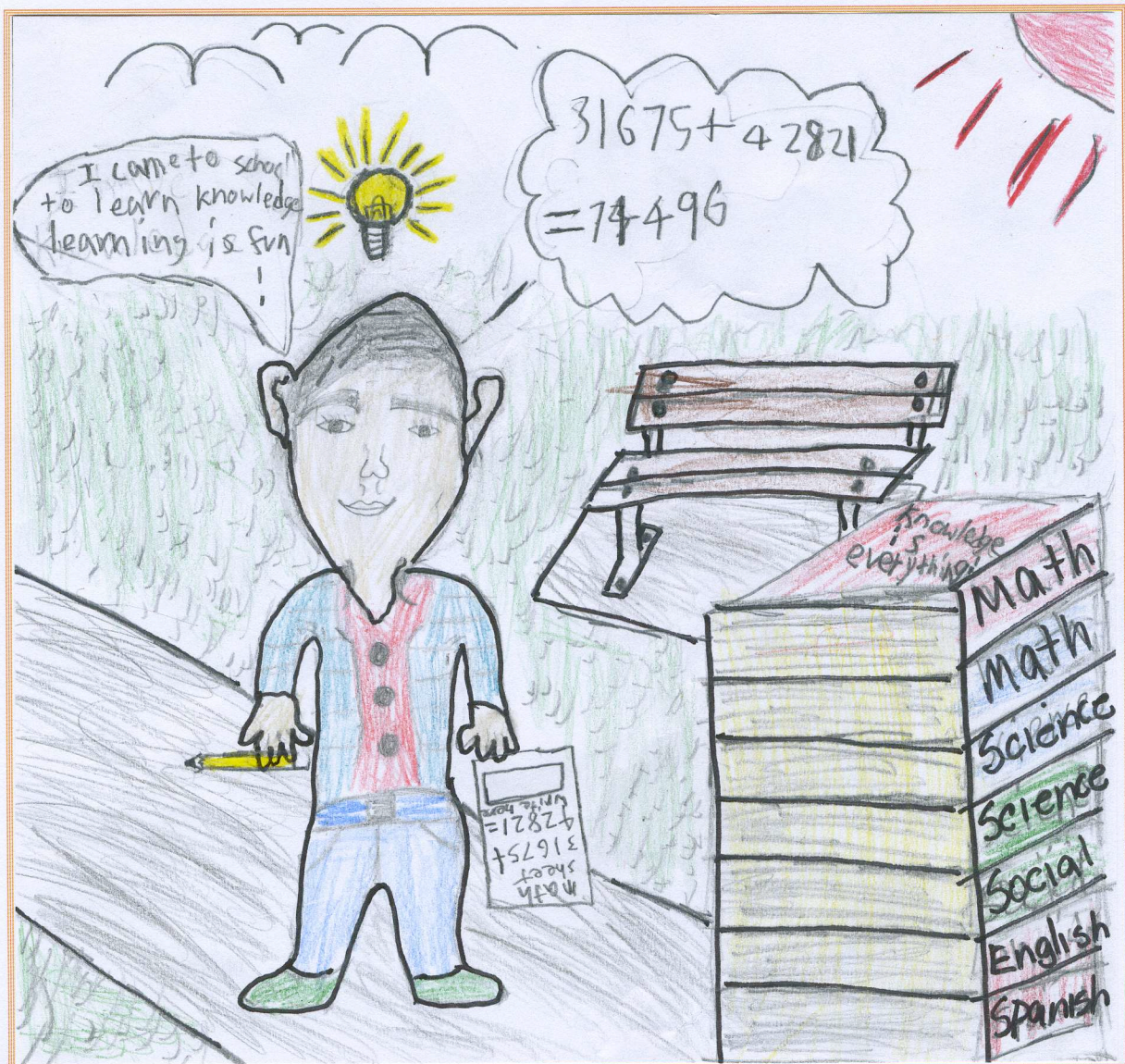
J is for June

Jamba juice in **June**.
Joyfully drinking
Juicy and jammy
Satisfactory and savory
Summer starting
School's gone until September
Gleefully gulping
Jamba juice in June



K is for Knowledge

Throughout middle school, students will gain **knowledge** about many things. It is important to understand what you learn and ask questions when you don't. This strategy will help you do well. Keeping your knowledge is crucial because you may learn something in the beginning of the year and then go back to it towards the end. Gaining knowledge is an important part of middle school.



L is for Locker

Each student is assigned a **locker** that is used to store your possessions. Students can decorate their locker as long as the decorations are not permanent. Each locker has a specific number combination so that it remains locked, and no one can get inside. However, if you forget your combination, do not shout for the janitor; just ask your homeroom teacher or the main office for it. It is important to keep your locker clean at all times so you can easily find the things you need for each of your classes. From time to time, we also have locker clean up days to remind us about organization.

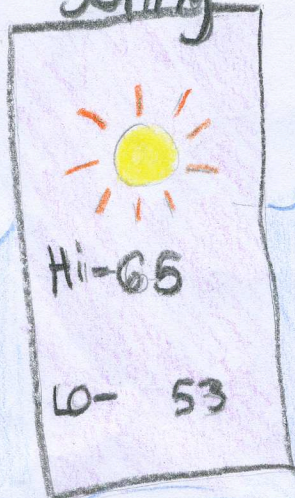


M is for Morning news

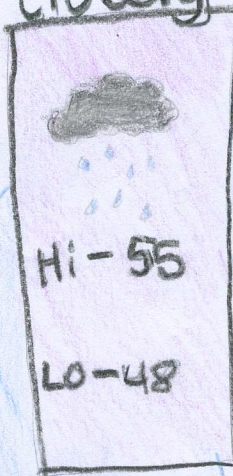
During homeroom every morning, we hear the **morning** news. HTV News is a live broadcast from the seventh and eighth grade students in our school. There are many different sections of the news, such as weather, SMS sports, headline news, and special announcements. There are also two anchors everyday. The pledge is said in the beginning of the broadcast either by the principal, assistant principals, or dean. At the end of the broadcast, either Dr. Welsch, Dr. Cartolano, or Mr. Cozine will announce students' birthdays and special events. HTV News keeps students and staff up to date on school events. We are very fortunate to have such a great program at our school.

This is HTV news live from the TV studios of Great Neck South Middle School

Today
Sunny



Tomorrow
cloudy

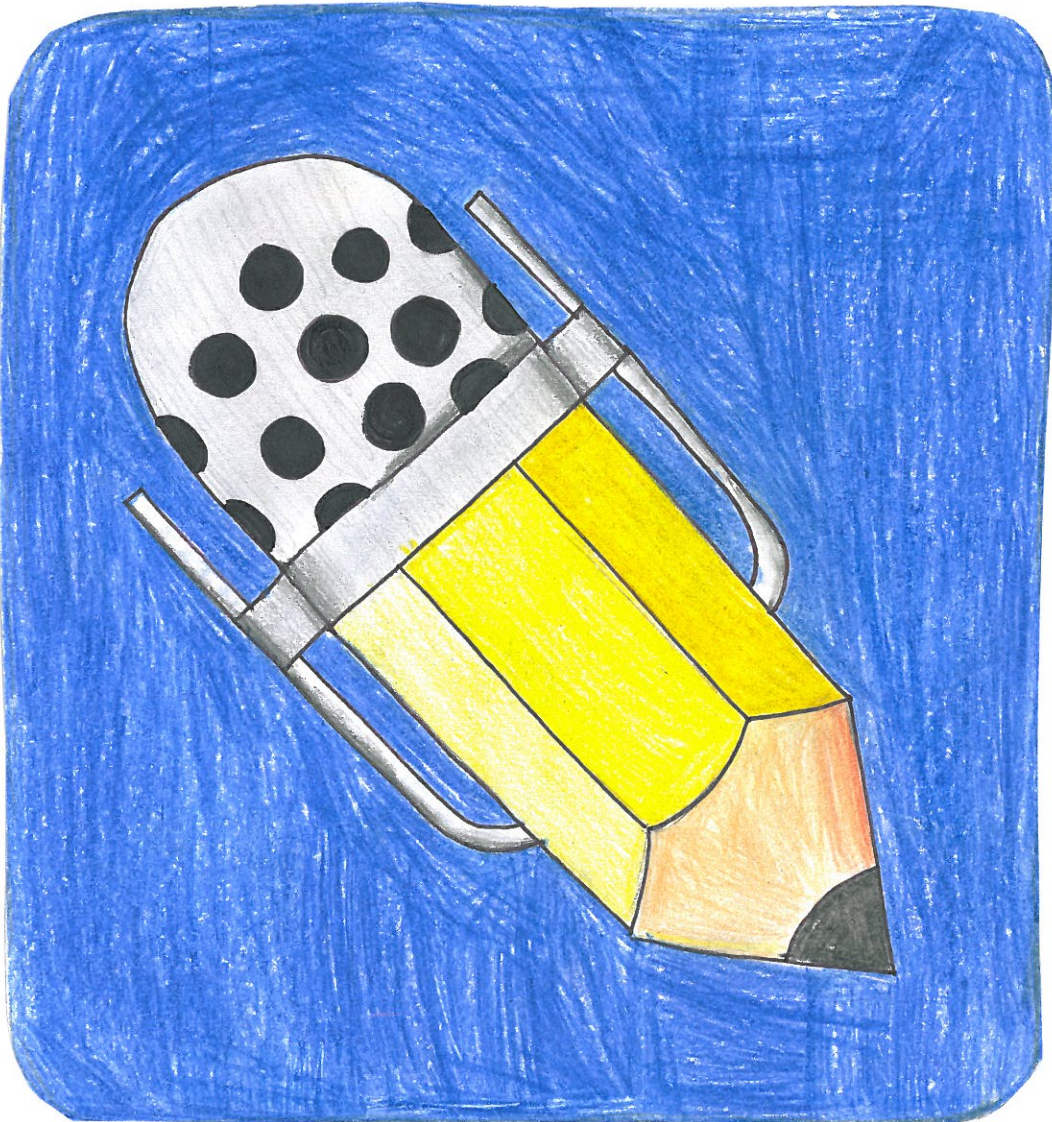


Jackie Smith



N is for Notability

Notability is one of the most important apps you will have on your iPad. It is an electronic binder, replacing the four colored notebooks the students had been using. It creates notes that integrate handwriting, typing, drawings, audio, and pictures. You can open PDF documents, sent to you through Google classroom, and write on them as you would a hand-out. This has allowed South Middle to move towards being paperless.



O is for ORP

ORP stands for Outside Reading Project. Four to five are assigned during the year by your English teacher. Even though you get a month to complete the assignment, you should start as early as possible and not leave the work for the last minute. Each ORP takes a long time to read and a long time to understand. You usually get an interesting book depending on your teacher's recommendations. An ORP is also important because it counts for two test grades. Reading ORPs is a very big part of sixth grade English.



P is for Planbook

A **planbook** is crucial in middle school as an organizational tool. This year, for the first time, there will be a digital planbook, with THE HW APP, on the iPad. The app lets you keep track of homework assignments and classes. When an assignment or test is added, you can indicate the class, due date, and color-code it by priority. Reminder alerts can be saved to your calendar. Homework assignments can be seen on the calendar, or in a queue by class, priority, or type. It is also a convenient way to organize tasks and projects that have multiple steps. There is even a way to get help with your homework. Staying organized and doing your homework is an important part of middle school success.

Sort

Mon 01 Jun

+

View Task

Edit

This Week

02 Jun

Green Book Page 631 #3-6 a...

EP Math 6-5

02 Jun

Do The Sheet

Spanish A 6-6

03 Jun

Chapter 14-3 - All Questions...

Science 6-2

Within 1 week from now

09 Jun

Digital Portfolio

English 6-1

11 Jun

Biography ORP

English 6-1

EP MATH 6-5

Green Book Page 631 #3-6 and Page 632 #7-21 (odd)

DUE IN

11 HOUR

SUBTASKS

DETAILS

Due Date

02 Jun 2015 12:00 AM

Reminder

Priority

Low

Medium

High

Notes

Completed

No

Yes

MORE

Share Task

Get Help With Homework

Tasks

Timetable

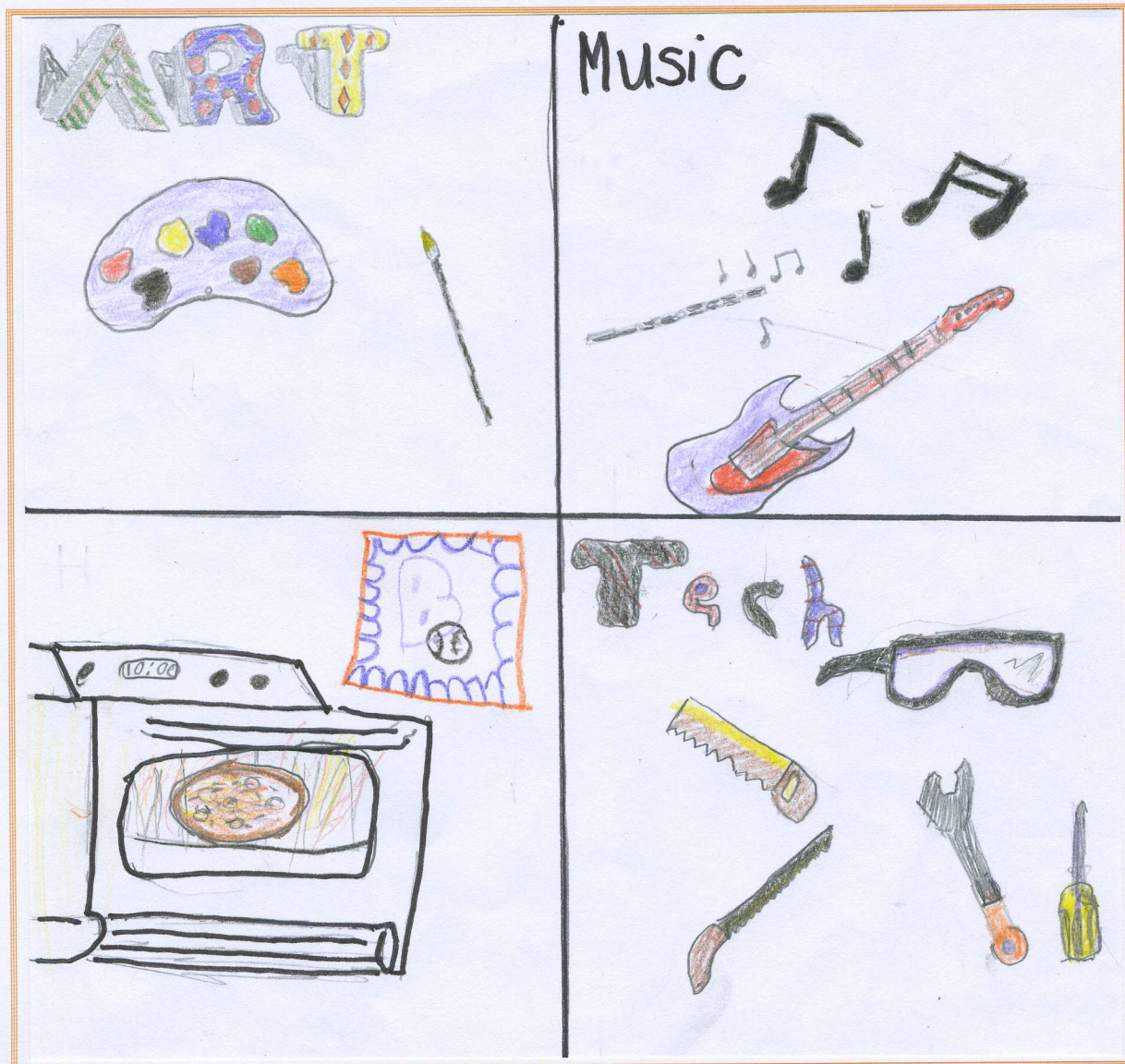
Instructors

Calendar

Settings

Q is for Quarters

There are four **quarters** in the school year. In each quarter you will have different specials, such as home and careers, music, art, and technology. In home and careers, you will learn to cook and sew. In music, you will learn how to keep rhythm. In art, you will learn how to make art "pop." In technology, you will learn about the man-made world and how to make a desk organizer. The quarters make the school year more interesting and time pass quickly.



R is for Report card

The sixth grade's **report** card consists of letter grades, like A, B, C, D, or F. Of course, an "A" is the best and an "F" is the worst. If you try hard, you will receive an "A" or a "B." Depending on your effort, however, you may receive a "C," a "D," or an "F." The report card also shows comments from all your teachers. You receive your report card online at the end of each quarter. To improve your grades, you can always go to extra help.

Great Neck South Middle		
John Smith		
	Absent	Tardy
English	1	0
Math	0	0
Science	2	0
Social Studies	1	0
Gym	0	0
Art	0	0

English (K. Kuhn) Comment: John works very hard. A

Math (L. Musmeci) Comment: John has scored 88, 92, 94, 96. A

Social Studies (A. Genner) John has mixed grades from B to A. B

Science (M. Litz) John needs to be more organized. C

Gym (A. Berlin) John is a role model for others. P

Art (C. Smith) John has amazing work skills. A

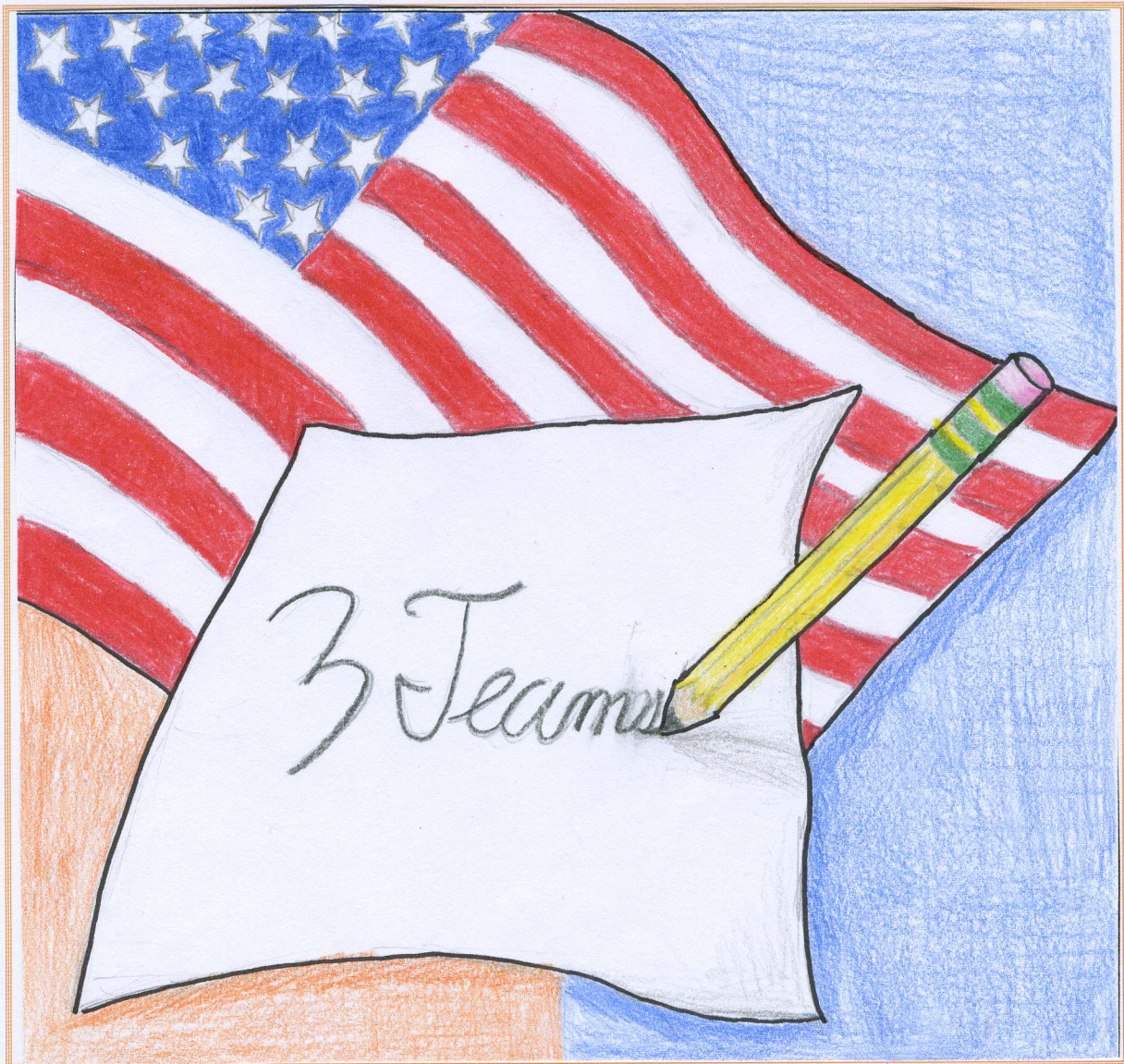
S is for Spirit week

Spirit week is dressing up in different themes for the entire week. Some examples are wearing the school colors, crazy hair/hats, sports jerseys, or retro clothing. The entire school is broken up alphabetically. You are also asked to bring in loose change, box tops for education, and canned goods to contribute for humanitarian causes. On the first day of spirit week, you get free ice cream after school; and on Friday, "Pajama Day," everyone gets bagels. It is so much fun to participate together in spirit week.



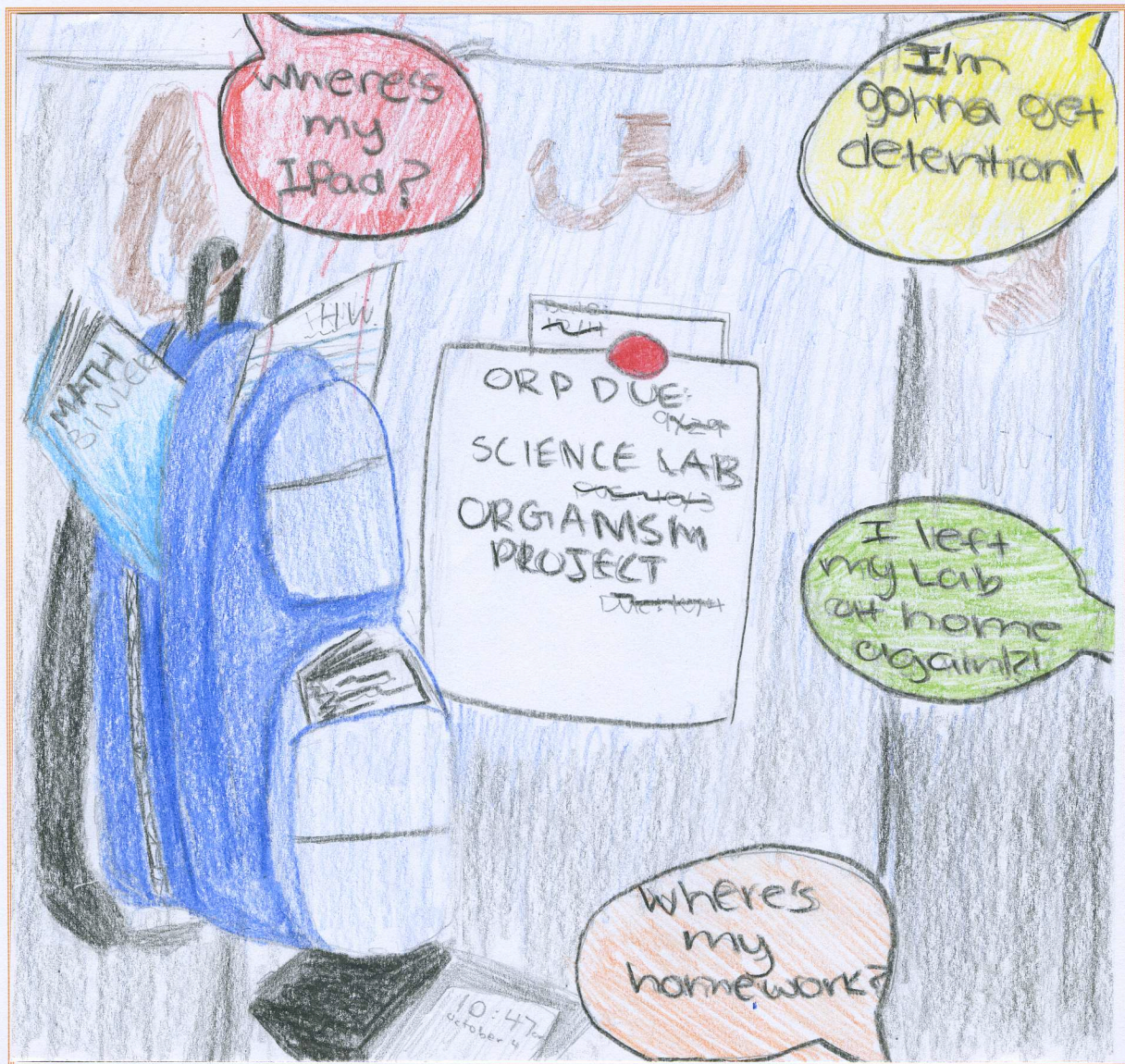
T is for Teams

South Middle School uses a system of **teams** in each grade. Sixth grade has three teams. They are the colors of the American flag: red, white, and blue. Each team has four main subject teachers, namely English, social studies, science, and math. Students from other teams will not be in your main subjects; but the art cycle, foreign language, and cafeterias are mixed.



U is for Unprepared

Being **unprepared** is asking for trouble. You could get in trouble if you don't bring in your assignments on time, so don't forget your homework everyday! You may also not understand the class work that day because you didn't complete the homework the night before. Sometimes during the year, you will be using iPads for curriculum activities follow up at home, so you must remember to bring them back to school the next day. Otherwise three strikes and you're out! Don't forget to be PREPARED for school everyday and be responsible for your work.



V is for Vacations

There are three main **vacations**: winter, spring, and summer breaks. During these times, it is important to have fun and relax. However, sometimes you may have to complete an assignment. So if you go away, be sure to take the assignment with you. Vacations refresh and strengthen us, so we can come back to school stronger and ready to learn again.



W is for Dr. Welsch

Dr. **Welsch** is the principal of South Middle School. He greets you every morning when you arrive at school. He is also on the morning news to do the pledge and to make announcements. Something you may not know is that Dr. Welsch is a balloon-holder at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The two assistant principals are Dr. Cartolano and Mr. Cozine. The dean, Ms. Krupala, helps the principal and assistant principals, and she is also an art teacher.



X is for eXcellent

Remember to do your homework, don't procrastinate, and always help others. You need to listen and pay attention to your teachers because they are providing you with the knowledge you need to grow and presenting new information that will help you on your tests and in life. You need to make sure you do everything on time and respect all the adults and students in the school. When a test is coming up, remember to study and be prepared. If you follow these simple steps, you will excel and become an excellent student.



Y is for Yearbook

The **yearbook** holds memories of the school year. Everyone has their picture taken so that it is in the yearbook, and special school events are also displayed in the book. A photography club takes lots of pictures for the yearbook. Anyone can purchase a yearbook at the end of the year, and you can even have your friends autograph a page. The yearbook serves as a great way to remember the year you experienced at South Middle School.



Z is for ZZZZ

ZZZZ represent the sleep that is a vital part of middle school life. You do better on tests or school, in general, when you get a good night's sleep. The amount of sleep your body receives will affect your mood, grades, and energy level during the day. However, never sleep during class since it will only set you back academically. So count on the Zzzz's your body need!

