

## Welcome to 6th Grade!

NEW teachers. NEW classes. NEW friends. NEW demands. New choices. AND MANY NEW OPPORTUNITIES! As 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, we recognize the importance of creating a safe and welcoming environment that considers the unique experiences, interests, and talents each student brings to our classroom. We are here to support, encourage and guide our students through all of these new experiences.

## Meet the Team 2 Teachers!

### SARA MIKKELSON - READING

Years in Education: **24**

Favorite Book for Middle Schoolers:  
***The Giver*, by Lois Lowry**

Favorite Travel Destination:  
**Grand Marais, MN**

Favorite Food: **Nachos**

Hobbies/Interests: **Reading, taking brisk walks, and spending time with family**

Top Song on Playlist: **Too many to choose from! My favorite musical artists are Pink and Michael Franti.**



### MONIKA BURKHEAD - WRITING

Years in Education: **3 Decades +**

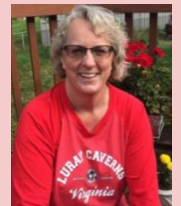
Favorite Book for Middle Schoolers:  
***Trapped*, by Michael Northrop**

Favorite Travel Destination:  
**I would like to go to Scotland.**

Favorite Food:  
**Grilled cheese sandwich and tomato soup**

Hobbies/Interests: **Scrapbooking (any crafting really), flea markets, reading, and kayaking**

Top Song on Playlist:  
***Bohemian Rhapsody*, by Queen**



### RYAN SCHNAITH - MATH

Years in Education: **4**

Favorite Book for Middle Schoolers:  
***The Hunger Games*, by Suzanne Collins**

Favorite Travel Destination:  
**Family Cabin in Northern MN**

Favorite Food: **Chicken Alfredo Pizza**

Hobbies/Interests: **Running, Swimming, Hiking, Video Games, and watching the Vikings fail me year after year.**

Top Song on Playlist:  
***Numb*, by Linkin Park**



### DAN KUST - SCIENCE

Years in Education: **Many, many years**

Favorite Book for Middle Schoolers:  
***Nightbooks*, by A.J. White**

Favorite Travel Destination: **#5795, #5775  
5 Mile Point Road, Mohawk, MI**

Favorite Food: **Grilled Corn on the Cob**

Hobbies/Interests: **Biking, Tele & Nordic skiing, Wisconsin sports teams**

Top Song on Playlist:  
***Never Changing Who I Am*, by Imagine Dragons**



### HEATHER RYDEN - SOCIAL STUDIES

Years in Education: **28**

Favorite Book for Middle Schoolers:  
***I Am Malala*, by Malala Yousafzai**

Favorite Travel Destination:  
**Grand Marais, MN and England**

Favorite Food: **Fish & Chips**

Hobbies/Interests: **Reading, traveling, the outdoors, music**

Top Song on Playlist:  
***Freedom*, by Jon Batiste**



**Prepared  
Respect  
Integrity  
Dependability  
Excellence**

## Communication, Assignments & Grades

Please keep in mind the importance of considering the *big picture* of your student's academic progress. If your student has missed an assignment or did not perform to a level you would have expected, please start with a conversation with them. This is a great way to help your student take responsibility for their learning. And of course, we are always here if you need us.

### SCHOOLGY

This is the place where assignments are posted, submitted and graded. Grades then sync to Skyward (but not always right away).

For the most part, all materials and directions for assignments can be found in Schoology.

Whenever you have a question about an assignment, start here first!

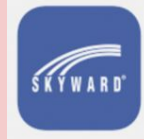


**NMS PRIDE PLANNER:** This is where students will record all of their assignments each day. Students should use this information to prioritize their assignments and make a plan to complete them.

### SKYWARD (FAMILY ACCESS)

Family Access enables you to monitor your student's academic progress. We recommend that you become familiar with it, as it is used district-wide at all grade levels.

Check here first for grades and missing assignments. If your student disputes a missing assignment, they should check Schoology to see if it was indeed turned in. If so, the student should contact the teacher to let them know.



**iPads:** Students will use their iPads on a daily basis. They should bring their iPads fully charged every day, along with their earbuds. We recommend bringing their charging blocks and cords as well, just in case. Please be sure iPads are clearly labeled with first and last names.

### DAILY LESSON HIGHLIGHTS (DLH)

This is a helpful tool to see at a glance what has been assigned each day in all of your student's core classes. This is posted at the top of each teacher's Schoology page. Please check it often to see what we've been up to!

Our goal is to help our students feel welcome, safe, motivated and successful at Northfield Middle School. We look forward to partnering with you in this effort in the year ahead!

When you have questions about your student's assignments or something that occurred at school, we recommend following these steps to find the answers:

**1**

Talk with your student. Check their planner and Daily Lesson Highlights.

**2**

Then, if needed, refer to Schoology and Skyward to see if your questions can be answered there.

**3**

Finally, if questions remain, contact your student's teacher(s) for more information.

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