



6th Grade Survival Guide
2021-2022 School Year
Student Edition

6th Grade Panthers,

Welcome to Frank Black Middle School! This year will be different from elementary school. You will have more classes, more teachers, more grades, and more independence. Some 6th graders can easily get overwhelmed, so organization and communication are super important! Below are some helpful hints to help you on your journey this year!

- Write down assignments/homework into your agenda or calendar so you can keep up with everything. Teachers have agendas and homework written on the board.
- Use a 7 or 8 subject accordion folder to organize handouts/homework from each class.
- Do every assignment in every class the best you can. This shows **EFFORT**. Teachers may not grade everything you do, but you don't know what they'll decide to put in the grade book. By doing assignments you are learning!
- Pay attention to due dates and deadlines. Points are taken off for late work. Your teachers have due dates and deadlines for grading as well!
- Don't be afraid to ask your teachers if you need help. We would rather you ask than stay quiet and not be successful. This shows **PERSEVERENCE**.
- Be prepared – with supplies – and be prepared to participate! This shows **MOTIVATION**.
- Be responsible for **your own** grades. This shows **OWNERSHIP**. Check Power School on your own. Reach out to your teachers if you have questions. There are multiple ways to contact your teachers: email, Remind, HUB.
- Follow all class rules and school rules. Be kind to your teachers, your classmates, and the school. This shows **RESPECT**. Teachers like a happy classroom environment, and they are on your side. We want to see you do well!
- If you see a fellow Panther who is lost, upset, or sitting alone - help them out! Go introduce yourself. Help them find their class. Be kind. This shows **EMPATHY**. Remember, many elementary schools join in middle school, so some Panthers may not know others yet.
- Listen to what teachers say so you don't miss any instructions, work hard so that you don't have more to do later to catch up, and don't worry about what others choose to do. You just do you. This shows **WISDOM**.



6th Grade Survival Guide 2021-2022 School Year Parent Edition

Panther Parents,

Welcome to middle school! BREATHE...everything will be okay! 😊 I know parents feel nervous about sending their little ones on to 6th grade, but FBMS is a great place to be! Some Panthers (and Panther parents) get overwhelmed at the beginning of the year because everything is new. That's totally normal. We hope the helpful hints below will help ease some of that anxiety, so that we can start the year off well!

- Even though you might want to give your child a bit more independence this year, most 6th graders still need their parents/guardians to support them from home. It will all be new, so check in with them about their grades and well-being often. They will appreciate it.
- There's likely to be less communication compared to elementary school. Although some information is posted on the website, PTO pages, or through Remind.com – some information is given directly to the students. It's important that students listen and take responsibility to get the information home to parents, if needed.
- Although you can always email the teachers directly, it's best if you teach your children to communicate with their teachers. This is the year to do that. It teaches them ownership in their education and great communication skills.
- All teachers will have the Remind.com code for their classes. Please sign up for all classes ASAP. This is how teachers send out reminders/information for their classes. The 6th grade dean will send out reminders/information that's for the grade level or school.
- Please keep in mind that middle school teachers have around 150 students each, so grading and updating grades may take a little longer than the average turn around time for elementary school. As grades are entered, the average fluctuates, so please be patient. Although teachers choose at least two grades/week to put into the grade book, students must do every assignment given.
- Lastly, sometimes 6th graders learn things the hard way. They might make a bad grade or make a mistake, but it's how they recover from it that's important and where the true learning happens.



6th Grade Teachers

Remind Codes – Sign up for your child’s classes now!!!

ELA Team:

Mrs. Hahn

Mrs. Haack

Ms. King

Ms. Pete

Math Team:

Mr. Locke

Ms. Davis

Ms. Matias

Ms. Thiel

World Cultures Team:

Mr. Fabela

Ms. Ogden

Ms. Thorne

Science Team:

Mr. Vu

Ms. Jaster

Ms. Walker



How to contact your teachers:

By Email:

- Log into your Microsoft 365 account (student drop down list from houstonisd.org main webpage).
- Your email address is SID#@online.houstonisd.org
- Type in your teacher's direct email address in the "To" line
- Enter 2-5 word summary of email in subject line
- Begin with a greeting (Good morning, Hello, Teacher's Name)
- Write message in the body of the email
- Include a closing (Thank you, Have a nice day, etc.)
- Sign your name and include your class period
- Make sure you use proper grammar/punctuation

By Remind:

- Your parents should be signed up for Remind.com, but you can access as well with class code
- You may send a message directly to teacher – just please respectfully do this during school hours.
- Begin with a greeting and end with your name/class period
- Make sure you use proper grammar/punctuation



How to access Power School and check grades:

Make sure you check your grades frequently. You can see your class averages and specific grades for each class. If you see that you forgot to complete an assignment, reach out to your teacher ASAP so that you can complete it for late credit.

- Log into HISD Connect (Using student drop down list from houstonisd.org main webpage)
- Log in using your ID# and birthday
- Look at class averages and grades. If it's blank, that usually means it's not entered yet. If it has a code that says missing or incomplete, then it has not been turned in and will eventually count as a zero.
- If you need to contact your teacher about a grade or complete a missing assignment, do it ASAP and let your teacher know which assignment you've completed.
- Points may be taken off if it's late, but even a late grade is better than no grade at all for your overall average!!!



600s

Fine Arts Building

Band Hall **604**
Choir Room **603**
Dance Studio **601**

Theater

LCDC **602**

Athletics Building

Gym

504

Theater Arts

Panther Patio

Cafeteria

PTO Store

700s

Student Activities Building

Karate Studio **(703)**

Art-Tech Studio (Pinkston) **(702)**

Community Center **(701)**

200s UPSTAIRS

Library

Main Building

100s DOWNSTAIRS

Main Office

400s UPSTAIRS

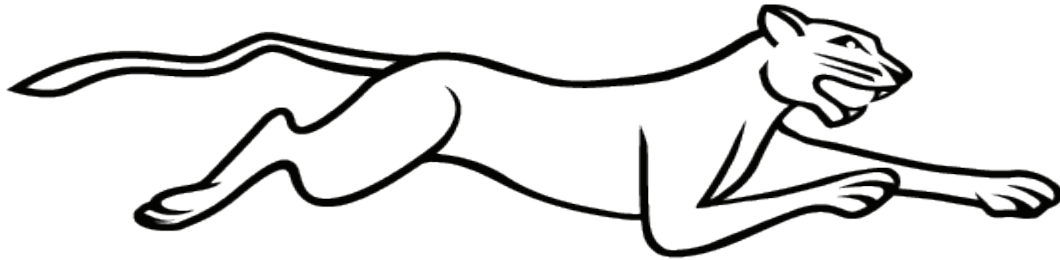
6th Grade Academy

300s DOWNSTAIRS

NatureWorks
Outdoor Classroom &
Environmental Learning Center

Parking Lot

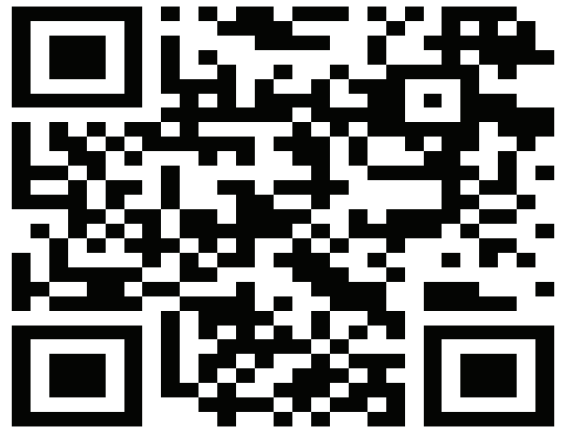
UIL ACADEMICS TEAM



UIL Academics Tournament Dates

October 2021
November 2020
December 2020
January 2021
April 2021
May 2021

SCAN HERE FOR
TOURNAMENT
EVENT DESCRIPTIONS



PARTICIPATE IN ONE OR MORE TOURNAMENTS ON SATURDAYS
(SPECIFIC DATES TBA)

PARTICIPATE IN UP TO THREE EVENTS PER TOURNAMENT

JOIN THE TEAM!

CONTACT MS. AYRES

LAYRES@HoustonISD.org