



Sacred Heart School | Salinas

Celebrating over 100 years of Quality Catholic Education

June 8, 2017

Dear Parents of Incoming Sixth Graders,

As the 2016-2017 school year comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, as I will have the privilege of being your child's 6th grade teacher this coming school year. I am very excited to partner with you as your child makes the important transition from 5th grade to middle school.

My name is Ruthann Schuler. This year will mark my second year of teaching 6th grade at Sacred Heart School, and I'm happy to say it has been an incredibly wonderful experience. Prior to teaching at Sacred Heart, I was a long-term substitute for years in the public school sector, as well as a director of a preschool for children with special needs, all of which have offered me great learning opportunities and experiences.

As summer approaches, I am confident, as parents, that you are aware of the importance and value of regular reading. The more children read, the more words they gain exposure to, and it is my hope that these words will inevitably make their way into their everyday vocabulary. This expansion of vocabulary also contributes to writing ability, as when your child is faced with a writing assignment, a good vocabulary will be an indispensable tool.

Required Summer Reading: Your child's required summer reading is the classic novel, "*Old Yeller*". You can purchase this book on line or at Barnes & Noble. A test will be given upon your child returning to school in August. This test will be the first grade in the grade book. We will then have the opportunity to discuss the book and go over, in detail, the elements of literature, such as themes, plots, characterization, rising and falling action, etc. It is this method of discussing detailed elements that we will apply to each story we read, as it allows us, as readers, to go deep into the book's meaning and, in many cases, apply it to our own experiences. This type of "tearing apart" of literature leads to great group discussion, involving the entire class and, in turn, hopefully contributes to the love of reading.

It is my belief that students are most successful when their parents are actively involved in their education and work in partnership with their teachers. I look forward to teaming with you to provide your child the best possible opportunity to succeed.

Most Sincerely,
Ruthann Schuler