

***THE  
SILAS WOOD  
SIXTH GRADE CENTER  
STUDENT  
SURVIVAL GUIDE***

***THIS SURVIVAL GUIDE HAS BEEN CREATED BY  
OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF FOR THE PURPOSE  
OF HELPING NEW SIXTH GRADE PARENTS  
ADJUST TO LIFE AT THE  
SILAS WOOD SIXTH GRADE CENTER***

# **SILAS WOOD SIXTH GRADE CENTER**

*A Regents Challenge School for Excellence in Middle Level Education*

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*Dear Students:*

*Welcome to the Silas Wood Sixth Grade Center!*

*You are about to begin the journey of being a middle school student. You will be experiencing an adventure involving academic, physical and emotional maturation.*

*We have developed this guide to help you find your way and to keep you informed of all of the many exciting things Silas Wood has for you.*

*The Silas Wood Sixth Grade Center serves as the oasis on the journey from elementary school child to adolescent. We welcome you and look forward to seeing you at Silas Wood next year.*

*Sincerely,*

*Roberta Lewis*  
*Principal*

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## Administrative Dean

The role of the Administrative Dean here at Silas Wood is to help make your transition from elementary school to middle school. The Administrative Dean has two jobs. One job is to give out consequences if you break a school rule. The other job is to be a friendly ear if you need someone to talk to. Our Administrative Dean always has a positive attitude and is like a friend. Peace Out!

## After School Activities

There are a variety of clubs and activities for sixth graders. These include intramurals, Builders' Club, Yorkers' Club, SADD, student council, the school newspaper (The Stylus), the musical review, Homework Help, Home and Career Workshops, Peer Mediation, etc. Some of these activities will be conducted at Silas Wood, and others will be at Stimson. There is a shuttle bus that will take you to Stimson and buses to take you home.

## Agenda Books

On the first day of school you get - **AN AGENDA BOOK**. An agenda book is a book where you keep your homework assignments. It helps you get organized. You can also keep study buddies' phone numbers in it. The agenda book is very helpful! It has the rules of the school, a map of the school, the world, and you can also put your grades in it. Call your study buddy for homework if you are absent. It can also be used as a communication log between school and home.

## Art

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade you will take an Art course. Art is one of the three wheel courses. A wheel course lasts about 13 weeks. In Art you will do many interesting and fun things. You have your own Art room in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The period in Art is a full 44 minutes. In Art you use many tools. Art is a great subject. On your report card you will get a grade in Art based on your effort and ability.

## Attendance

Good attendance is directly related to achieving good grades. If you are absent for any reason, your parent/guardian must write an absent note stating the reason for your absence. It is not necessary to call the school for routine absences.

## Book Fair

The Silas Wood/Stimson PTA sponsors a Book Fair once during the year. It is usually held some time in the fall. At the Book Fair you can buy any book that you want. They have a lot of books, and they also have things other than books. They have pencils, posters, erasers, bookmarks, folders and other materials you need for school. They have topics like mystery, comedy, horror and drama. When it is the day for your team to get your books, you go into another room and pick out the books you want. When you go, you stay about 15 minutes and then go back to your Language Arts class. That is what our Book Fair is like.

# **BULLYING**

## **What is Bullying?**

- Bullying is using words or actions to hurt someone else
- Gossiping about others
- Putting down others
- Leaving others out---EXCLUSION
- Using the internet to threaten, tease, or humiliate students

## **How do I know if my child is being Bullied?**

Hints your child may show:

- Becomes quiet and withdrawn
- Changes his/her route to school
- Comes home with cuts, bruises or torn clothing
- "Loses" clothing or possessions
- Ravenous when he/she gets home
- Avoids leaving the house
- Doesn't want to take the bus to school
- Suggests changing schools or moving

## **What to do when you KNOW your child is being Bullied?**

- Create an open line of communication with your child. Encourage your child to report bullying incidents to you.
- Be proactive. Discuss a plan of action with your child on how he/she would like for you to assist them if they should ever become a victim of bullying.
- The bullying incident should be reported to school authorities; i.e. teachers, guidance counselors, social workers, school psychologist, Administrative Dean, or Principal. Adults in the school environment need to be made aware of the extent of the bullying, where and when it happens. AS A SCHOOL WE CANNOT FIX WHAT WE DO NOT KNOW ABOUT.
- Continue to monitor the situation by asking your child for updates.

## **Bystander Responsibility**

Student onlookers need to understand that they are responsible for their actions when they witness a bullying incident. In particular, bystanders should know they will face negative consequences if they decide to join a bully in taunting or teasing a victim, cheer the bully on, laugh at the bullying incident, or otherwise take part in the bullying.

## Cafeteria

In the cafeteria you can sit wherever you want and with whomever you want. You sit at round tables with eight chairs at each table. There are vending machines with juice and other cold refreshments. Some foods that you can get every day are: pizza, hamburger, cheeseburger, hero, french-fries, salads and a drink. Some other foods are Italian hero, mozzarella sticks, hot dogs, chicken parmesan, tacos and grilled cheese.

## Computers/Labs

At Silas Wood there are computers in every room. The programs are all the same in every room. The Internet is used for research for reports and to go on during study hall. All computers are linked to the Internet. The Internet is a great experience for kids in Silas Wood. In addition, we have two computer labs adjacent to the library.

## Daily Routines

Everybody has a different daily routine. All students have eight periods, including the "Wheel." In addition, there is a morning and afternoon homeroom. A sample schedule would be as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> period:	Wheel Class
2 <sup>nd</sup> period:	Social Studies
3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> period:	Language Arts
5 <sup>th</sup> period:	Study Hall and Lunch
6 <sup>th</sup> period:	Math
7 <sup>th</sup> period:	Science
8 <sup>th</sup> period:	Phys.Ed. (Day 1) or Band (Day 2)

Students should follow directions of homeroom teachers regarding use of classroom lockers. At first your schedule may be confusing, but before you know it, you will get the hang of it.

## Grades

Grades in 6<sup>th</sup> grade are very important! You get number grades instead of letters on your report card. We have a high honor roll and an honor roll. To be on the high honor roll you need an average of 90 or above. Your grades are based on your participation, homework, test grades and projects. You have four quarters. You get one report card each quarter. You will get 8 grades, one for each subject: wheel course, math, language arts, social studies, science, physical education and music. Grades are one of the most important things in 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Guidance Counselors and Support Staff

You will be assigned a guidance counselor at Silas Wood. There are 6 counselors. The counselor that you are assigned to is based on your last name. Counselors are available for every student at Silas Wood. The guidance staff is trained for your needs. In addition, there are psychologists, social workers, student support advisor and more. Basically, every problem can be helped. If you need to see your counselor, you go to the guidance office and fill out an appointment slip. Your counselor will then make an appointment with you.

## Home and Careers

Home and Careers is where you learn about family, self-esteem, cooking, and sewing. When you are cooking you have to wash your hands a lot. If you touch your face or the table, you have to wash your hands again. For sewing, everyone gets his or her own sewing needle. First you practice sewing little stitches on a piece of paper, and then you move on to a piece of fabric. Then at the end of Home and Careers, you sew a puppet together. Good Luck.

## Homecoming

This occurs every year in the fall when Walt Whitman High School has their homecoming weekend. Everyone is welcome to march in the parade with their Silas Wood Team. The band also marches in the parade.

## Homework Program

Do kids get enough homework done at home? No! Well, join the After-School Homework Program! It runs for one hour, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. The program is held Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, unless an announcement is made. Since this is an afternoon program, you must have homework to participate in this event. If you finish your homework and you have nothing else to do, you can borrow a book from the library. That is all there is to know about the "After-School Homework Program."

## Late Buses

Late buses are available Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. There are four buses to service the district. The bus will not drop you off at your "normal" a.m. or p.m. stop. After-school drops will be determined. Advisors will assist students in locating the correct bus to board.

## The Music Program

The music program is a lot of fun. We learn all about music and how to play instruments. The music program at Silas Wood consists of three programs, chorus, band and orchestra. Students select the program they want the year before they come to Silas Wood. The music program you choose alternates with Physical Education every other day. You also have SGI's that stands for "Small Group Instruction." SGI's are lessons with other students who play the same instrument and are on your level. The music program is fun, and it teaches you to cooperate with your classmates.

## Peer Mediation

A mediator is a person who can help you with your problems. Some reasons for peer mediation are if someone calls you names, gets you angry, or you and your best friend have a conflict. During peer mediation, the mediators guide you through your problems. The mediators are trained, so your problems are confidential. The goal of peer mediation is to give students peaceful means of settling a dispute.

## Physical Education

In physical education (not called gym) you play sports, have tests and learn a lot. Some things you learn about in physical education are muscles, physical movement, your heart, physical well being, and how to take your pulse. We participate in many activities in physical education. Some of them are the pumpkin run (Mini-thon), self-defense, Circle-of-Dance (hip-hop), volleyball, basketball, hockey and physical fitness tests. P.E. is fun, educational and a great experience.

## Progress Reports

You receive a progress report half way through each of four quarters. Don't worry, they don't show your grades, but they show comments. Some comments are: needs improvement, just passing, talks too much in class, excellent effort, pleasure to have in class, inconsistent test grades, etc. If you try to fix what was on your progress reports, your grades will go up on your report card. So, try to be good and study for all your tests.

## Recreation Night

(Sponsored by the Town of Huntington)

At the recreation nights, you play sports. It is \$3.00 to get in. You also need an ID card. You wear sweats and sneakers. You play team sports like Volleyball and Football. For refreshments, you can eat candy or chips and you drink soda. You need to pay for your own refreshments. Your parents need to come and pick you up, or you need a note from your parents if someone else is picking you up.

## Report Cards

In Silas Wood, report cards are mailed home rather than given out to the students at the end of the marking period to take home. This year, you are given numerical grades to represent your average. Your overall average is shown at the bottom portion of your card. As you probably already know, there are four quarters of the marking period. At the half of each marking period, there is a progress report. The wheel grade is shown in the second marking period. Comments can also be found on the right side of the report card. You must maintain an average of 90% or above to be on the High Honor Roll. If you have an average from 85 to 89%, you are on the regular Honor Roll.

## Schedules

On the first day of school, you will get a schedule. On it will be your name, and other information. After that, you will find a list of periods, days, classes, room numbers and teachers. Under periods, on the left, there will be a 1,2,3 and 7 Y's. The course next to the Y's you must go to every day. The 1, 2 and 3 are the thirds of the year. That means that each course will be for 13 weeks. Under the days column, you will see a number of "all's", and a 1 and 2. Starting from the beginning of the year, these are called "Day 1" and "Day 2". On either of these days, you will go to Physical Education or Music. These days will alternate every day as well, so you will go to physical education on one of these days and music on the other. The next important thing is that lunch and study hall are split into one period, whichever period you have for lunch and study hall. Also, you go to your regular classes for one period each, which are about 40 minutes long. There is one exception and that is Language Arts, being two periods long. That's what your schedule is like.

## Science Fair

Your Science Fair project is an individual effort. There isn't a theme so you just have to make a project that has to do with science and follows the "Scientific Method". If you come in first, second or third place, you get a prize. Many people look forward to and love this Fair.

## School Dances

If you want to have a really good time, make sure you attend a Silas Wood dance. Dances are usually held from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. or 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. They are held in the Gymnasium with a Disk Jockey. To attend a dance you need to be eligible and have your ID card. Dance tickets are sold during lunches for \$2.00. After the dance, you need someone to pick you up promptly. At the dance you should wear comfortable clothes and sneakers.

## School Elections

The school elections are held in the fall. In order to participate, you have to have a slate of four people. A full slate has a President, Vice President, Secretary and a Treasurer. Once your slate is in place, you start your campaign. You hang posters in the hall, and the presidential candidate gives a speech on the loudspeaker. An election is held during morning homeroom, and the winners are announced during the afternoon homeroom. After the slate wins, the G.O. officers run the meetings. At the meetings they decide school activities, such as dances and assemblies.

## School Rules

There are certain school rules you need to follow or you might find yourself in I.S.S. Some of the school rules are:

- Do not write on bathroom walls
- Always follow directions
- No cursing allowed
- Raise your hand to speak
- Speak in a normal tone
- No physical or verbal violence
- Bring work for your study hall
- No eating in classrooms
- Sign out before going to the bathroom
- Have a hall pass when you leave the room
- Be at class on time

## Social Studies Fair

The Social Studies Fair is a fun event for people who love social studies. This fair always has a theme. The top prize is the "Best in Fair Award." There are always a lot of competitors. This is fun and exciting to compete in.

## Spelling Bee

Every year Silas Wood has its own Spelling Bee, sponsored by Newsday. During the spelling bee, a teacher asks you challenging words to spell. First, you have a spelling bee in your classroom to see if you can advance to the next round. That is where you will compete against other kids in our school. In the spelling bee, you can ask to have the word repeated or for a definition of that word or may ask for the word in a sentence. Most of the times, these options will help you spell the words. Try your hardest and GOOD LUCK!

## Spirit Week

Spirit Week is the best week of the school year. During Spirit Week your team will choose a theme. When you choose your theme you will make a banner to represent your team and your theme. You will then pick two or more team colors. When the banner is finished, all the kids on the team will be represented in some way. During Spirit Week you will experience several games, such as relay races, academic bowl, etc. The days are different dress days such as Team Color Day, Jersey Day, Dress for Success Day, Maroon and White Day and Clash Day. There is also a food drive during the week. At the end of the week, each team's points will be tallied. Then the winners will be announced during P.M. homeroom.

## Study Skills

In order to study, you should do your homework. Take good notes when the teacher is talking about a lesson. Pay Attention! DON'T DAYDREAM! Read chapters over if you don't understand, and also look back on work. Teachers may give quizzes or play Jeopardy to prepare you for tests. Ask questions if you don't understand. Study from worksheets and homework. Always be prepared and concentrate.

## Teachers

Every teacher at Silas Wood is different. Some are very nice and some are very strict. Teachers have different ways of teaching. One thing they all have in common is that they are working to give you a good education. You see most of the teachers for one period at a time, but some you see twice a day.

## Teams

The first day of school you and your friends get placed on a team. There are 6 or 7 teams at Silas Wood. There are three teachers on each team for Science, Social Studies, Language Arts and Math.

## Wheel Courses

The school year is split into thirds. The three courses you take are world language, art and home and careers.

## World Language

This year you will be learning three different languages. These languages are French, Spanish and Italian. Each language takes about four weeks to complete. At the beginning of a new language, you are given a name that pertains to the language. In each class you will learn commands, objects, numbers and greetings. You take a final at the end of each Language Unit. Good Luck, Bonne Chance, Buena Suerte and Buona Fortuna!



# **Good Luck at Silas Wood**

## **SURVEY - 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

Favorite food in Cafeteria	<u>Pizza</u>
Favorite snack	<u>Doritos</u>
Best activity in Phys. Ed.	<u>Basketball</u>
Best project in Home & Careers	<u>Puppets</u>
Favorite Foreign Language	<u>Spanish</u>
Best project Art	<u>Cartoons</u>
Favorite Novel	<u>Walk Two Moons</u>
Favorite activity during Spirit Week	<u>Pajama Day</u>
Coolest school dance	<u>Halloween</u>
Most interesting Science topic	<u>Animals</u>
Most interesting Social Studies topic	<u>Middle Ages</u>
Most interesting Math topic	<u>Fractions</u>
Favorite activity during Music	<u>Playing Instrument</u>
Best thing about Silas Wood	<u>Peace-Out Program</u>
Worst thing about Silas Wood	<u>Homework</u>
Favorite Subject	<u>Language Arts</u>