

Dear 6th grade students,

Welcome to 6th grade! My name is Mr. Dave Leimer and I am the 6th grade teacher as well as the Middle School Science and Art teacher.

I hope you are all having a great and relaxing summer. My summer has been fun as well as busy as I get things ready for the upcoming school year. This will be my 31st year of teaching and I still spend much of my summer trying to think up new ideas or teaching methods that will help us throughout the upcoming school year.

As a 6th grader you will have me for religion, science, and art. I will also be your homeroom teacher. I always look forward to the start of a new school year and the opportunity to grow academically and spiritually. I love Science and like to incorporate many labs, activities and hands-on projects. I have recently started having science enrichment classes afterschool called "Lab Rats". Many of you know that I enjoy keeping many species of reptiles, amphibians and other creatures in my classroom. I still have many of them and will usually have some new animals as well by the start of the new school year. You will learn a lot about these animals as well as have the opportunity to hold, care, and help maintain many of them if you would like to. You will also be helping out with the garden that the 6th graders started working on a couple of years ago. We have a butterfly and vegetable garden behind our classroom. We have also been taking part in the University of Georgia "Project Monarch Health" program where we catch monarch butterflies that come to our garden, take a sample and then tag and release them. We have a butterfly enclosure where we are able to raise monarch butterflies to study. We have also begun working with Aquaponics in our garden as well.

During the summer we will set up a time to meet either at school. This will be a great time for me to share some information about next year as well as to find out some things about you. It will also give you the opportunity to ask questions about our class and our school. If you have any questions please let me know. Enjoy the rest of your summer and I will be talking to you soon.

In Christ, Mr. Dave Leimer

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