



## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Tips - from other SFMS parents

**Favorite websites:** [www.sfmspta.com](http://www.sfmspta.com). [www.sfm.springbranchisd.com](http://www.sfm.springbranchisd.com)

Practice a combination lock over the summer. Many, many, many times.

Kids will receive two lockers – one in the hallway for books, lunch etc (combination lock is attached to that locker) and one little locker in PE for their gym clothes. Parents need to provide a combination lock for the gym locker. You can buy these at Walgreens, CVS etc. They are about \$10. Practice the combination.

Attend Bobcat Camp. It alleviates a lot of fear. If your child still does not feel comfortable, request a private tour with the Assistant Principal.

Bobcat Camp is the Friday morning before school starts. Student Council assists incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Pick up school supplies, pre-ordered PTA spirit items and other uniform extras at that time too.

PTA sells a fleece for kids to wear. It sells out every year. Buy it early!

Student Council sells the other spirit wear. Kids can wear the “spirit t-shirt” on Fridays instead of a collared shirt.

\$5 for “free dress day”. That money goes towards 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation so that all kids can attend.

Take a photo of the map of the school (two levels). Once kids receive their class schedule (at Bobcat Camp) they can practice where they need to go. Remember teachers understand kids being late the first few weeks of school as the 6<sup>th</sup> graders figure out where to go for classes.

Take a photo of your child’s schedule. Have your child take a photo of their schedule. Students should keep it on their phone. Use the schedule when planning kids appointments.

Buy a 3-4 inch “all in one” binder with files and a zipper or Velcro closure. Take that to school on the first day along with a pen and pencil. Use for all classes. Remove older notes and leave them at home.

Save the notes from ALL your classes. Your kids will need them for exams this year and maybe in future years!

Order school supplies through the school. It’s easier. This is FINISHED by mid-June so order them as soon as the notice comes out.

Keep your school supplies at home. Teachers will tell your kids what they need to bring from the school supply packet for each class.

Girls – don’t decorate your locker right away. You could switch lockers within the first few weeks.

Most kids prefer the navy and white shirts for their uniform. Girls prefer navy as they are not transparent. Kids prefer the Dri-fit style collared shirts. You can purchase them on-line, at Academy or at Lands End. Remember – no labels/logos! If they wear a shirt/sweatshirt with a logo then it will be taken away and/or kids may have to serve a lunch detention to get the item back.

Take developmental athletics even if you don't like sports. It's a great way to get to know other students and it's more fun than the regular PE class.

Buy two (2) sets of gym clothes. And LABEL! Gym clothes will be distributed the first few days of school. You can send money later for an extra set of gym clothes.

Remember that kids have to change for PE. Make sure their underwear is in good condition and that girls wear a tank top under their clothes.

**Sign up for:** (1) SFMS PTA E-blast. This is weekly and keeps you informed of school activities – [www.sfmspta.org](http://www.sfmspta.org) (2) Remind text messages by Dr. Williams (3) Remind for EACH class your child takes. Teachers will have this information at Curriculum night (4) Skyward for checking grades [www.skyward.springbranchisd.com](http://www.skyward.springbranchisd.com)

**Attend curriculum night** at the beginning of the year (September). You get very valuable information from the teachers – Remind, curriculum, tutorial hours, website information.

Check the SFMS website (SBISD). Homework assignments (especially math), answers to reviews, tutorial hours etc. are typically on that site.

Take Spanish. It is worth high school credit and can help with the high school schedule.

Invest in a smart phone and laptop if you can afford it. Smart phones are used in class.

Participate in Student Council. It's an easy way to get involved.

Pay attention to the courses that build enough to earn high school credit – art, computer, wood shop, Spanish.

Take Pre-AP everything. You can go down to Academics if the course is too hard. It is almost impossible to go up. Pre-AP needs about 80% from 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Encourage kids to go to tutorials. All students, especially 6<sup>th</sup> graders, go.

Lunch – be prepared that kids may not want to bring lunch box. Paper/plastic bags are more common and the kids throw everything away.

If your child orders a school lunch be aware that there are many extras they can buy! Check the on-line system for what they have purchased [www.parentonline.net](http://www.parentonline.net). For 6<sup>th</sup> grade, they sit at a table with the kids that they had class with before lunch. This may change in December.

Make a friend with an upper classman. They will help and you will have a friend at SHS.

If you need to take your child out of school for a reason, allot an additional 15+ minutes to get your child from a class prior to leaving the school. Plan on more time if they are in PE. You need a name badge to go anywhere you go in the school – even to the attendance office.

Make sure you register as a volunteer at the beginning of the school year - [www.springbranchisd.com](http://www.springbranchisd.com).

Attend any “incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade” party. There is usually a pool party (minimal cost) before school starts.

School supplies (ream of paper, pens, pencils, dry erase markers, Kleenex) and gift cards are great teacher gifts.