

6th Grade Language Arts Syllabus 2015-2016

Welcome Readers and Writers!

I am very excited to be working with you this year, and I want to make this year great! 6th grade Language Arts is broken into two periods, one focuses on reading skills and one focuses on writing. Here is some information I hope you find helpful. I am looking forward to a year full of reading and talking about great books with you.

Contact Information

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Room 230

Class Website:
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Planner

Walker provides you with a planner that is used to record daily activities, due dates, and homework. **Please show your planner to your parents to share and discuss your assignments.**

Homework

Nightly and weekly homework includes:

- 30 minutes reading outside of class every night & logged on reading log.
- One, full page, out of class writing entry due Friday.

Additional Student Supplies for L.A.

- spiral or composition notebook (for Writer's Notebook)
- divider section in student's binder for returned work
- silent pencil sharpener

Materials required everyday in class:

- binder
- planner
- writer's notebook
- current book student is reading
- pencil

Appreciated donations to be used by entire class:

- pencils, glue sticks, notecards, pens, notebook paper, kleenex

Reader's Workshop

During our reading period we will cover a variety of important skills throughout the year. These include: comprehension strategies, vocabulary, authentic reading, purposeful reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. **There is reading homework every night.** You will get to read a book of your choice in class and at home everyday. Why? Frequent voluminous reading leads to skilled, passionate, and habitual readers. That means the more you read, the stronger the reader you will be. We keep a reader's notebook in class where we will practice our new reading skills and record notes. You will also keep a reading log where you will track the books you are reading and I will check them on Mondays to see the progress you are making. You will get reading time in class everyday where I will conference with some of you. During this time I will check in with you and work with you one on one as a reader. This reading time does not count as part of your required nightly reading homework. :)

Writer's Workshop

During our writing period we will write everyday. We will use mentor texts, mini-lessons, conferences, and daily writing in our writer's notebooks. I am excited to read your writing. It allows me to get to know you, see your ideas and creativity, and find ways to encourage you to grow individually. I encourage you to share the writing drafts from your writer's notebooks with your family. Your final writing pieces will stay in the classroom in your portfolio until the end of the year. I will ask you to write one out of class entry in your writer's notebook once a week. I will check this on Fridays.

Grading

- Your grades are determined at the end of each 6 weeks for a progress report grade and at the end of the semester for a final grade.
- Academic grades will be based on performance on assignments, quizzes, projects, final writing projects and daily work, with an emphasis on summative assessments (meaning these will be worth more points than daily work). Effort, citizenship, and work habits will be assessed separately from academic grades.

Conduct/ Citizenship Standards

O (outstanding) Student is always on task and participates with respect.

S (satisfactory) Student is consistently on task and participates with respect with few exceptions.

N (needs improvement) With multiple reminders student is on task and participates.

U (unsatisfactory) Student is rarely on task and/ or rarely participates.

Work Habits Standards

O (outstanding) Work is turned in complete and on time. There are NO missing assignments and student is prepared daily and effectively manages class time.

S (satisfactory) Work is usually complete and turned in on time with few exceptions. Student is usually prepared for class and usually manages time well.

N (needs improvement) Work is often late or incomplete/ or student isn't reading enough. Student inconsistently manages class time.

U (unsatisfactory) Work is rarely complete or turned in on time. Student rarely comes to class prepared to learn and rarely manages class time effectively.

Late Policy:

Late work is accepted and you are encouraged to turn in all assignments to show work ethic and progress towards mastery of skills. When general work is late it cannot be considered exceptional. Therefore, points will be deducted for late work. After one week a grade of C is the highest points possible on general assignments, unless stated in a student's IEP or 504. Major assignments are an exception, and will be graded strictly on assignment and/or rubric criteria. Under this policy, turning in late work benefits your grade, and you will not fail a class because of late assignments.

Absences

When you are absent it is your responsibility to find out what work you missed and what assignments need to be made up. You and I will need to decide and agree upon a due date for this work based on how long you were absent. If you are gone three or more days your parents can call the school or email your teachers to request your missed work. Try to be here everyday! We are a team and learn better together.

Parents Information (Show your families)

Here are ways to support your reader and writer this year:

- Check your child's planner and binder for organization at least weekly if possible. Look for due dates on assignments and check on your child's progress.
- Provide a quiet place for your child to do their 30 minutes of nightly reading homework.
- Be aware there is nightly reading homework every night and weekly writing homework.
- Talk to your child about the book they are reading.
- Ask to see your child's current writing piece, or look through their writer's notebook together. Ask what we are doing in workshop.
- Check your child's grades online using ParentVUE. They are also posted once a week in class for students to check.

I know the transition to middle school can be overwhelming. I am here to help with the transition and make this a great year! Please feel welcome to contact me at any point this year if you have questions or concerns. Email is the quickest way to get ahold of me. It's going to be a great year and I look forward to it being full of conversations, reading great books, and growing as writers.

-Mrs. Ahrendt