

Students and Parents,

Welcome to 6th grade English Language Arts and SS. Middle School can be a difficult transition, but we believe you are up for the challenge. We want you to learn new things and challenge your mindset. Instead of saying you are not good at something, say that you haven't mastered it yet, but you are willing to learn. The 2017-2018 school year is going to be fabulous. Please know that my door is always open for questions and concerns.

Jennifer Ledbetter

Class Descriptions

Sixth grade English Language Arts utilizes The TNReady standards to provide a focus for instruction to ensure that students gain adequate exposure to a range of texts and tasks. Rigor is infused through the requirement that students read increasingly complex texts from a variety of genres both fiction and nonfiction. Students are expected to meet the 6th grade standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades. (Common Core State Standards Initiative, <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RL/introduction-for-6-12>)

Our first group novel study will be Wonder by R.J. Palacio. We will thoroughly study this novel and really look at how to 'Choose Kind.' Additional novel studies will occur each nine weeks.

Sixth grade Social Studies will be following the TN Standards for Social Studies, available at http://www.tennessee.gov/assets/entities/education/attachments/std_ss_gr_6.pdf. These standards focus on Ancient World History. We have also chosen to integrate world geography into the middle school SS curriculum. Students will be responsible for memorizing world maps and will be tested on these throughout the year as well. Our text is an online techbook from Discovery Education.

Expectations

To help each of you succeed in 6th grade, we have developed the following set of procedures and ground rules.

Classroom Rules

The following rules have been adopted and should be followed for the safety and success of everyone.

Listen to instructors
Enter and exit prepared
Always try our best
Respect ourselves and others
No Excuses

There are consequences for breaking these rules, and these have been developed with my colleagues. For being unprepared, unsigned planners, homework and being off task students will receive an effort mark. Three of these will result in a conduct slip. In 7th and 8th grade students will automatically receive conduct slips for these infractions, so we are expecting them to understand these consequences now.

Students will be given a conduct slip for disruption, disrespect, being out of area, or as deemed necessary by the teacher. These must be returned with a parent/guardian signature within two days. If the conduct slip has not been returned after two days, another conduct slip will be assigned. Once a student has received six conduct slips, that student will not be eligible for the nine weeks' field trip. After six conduct slips, the student will be referred to the office for each additional infraction and a consequence will be determined by administration.

Homework and Classwork Policy

Because homework is kept to a bare minimum, it is extremely essential that students complete their work on time. Nightly reading is suggested to improve comprehension and fluency, and nightly reading will be assigned via a reading response log which will be due every Friday. Other assignments and projects will be required, but ample class time will be provided for students to get a good start and to provide a time to ask questions. Homework/classwork falls under the ground rule of being prepared for class daily, therefore, any student who does not have his/her work will follow the consequences. If students turn in the assignment one day late, the maximum grade will be a 70. Work turned in up to five days late can earn the maximum score of a 50. Work later than five days will not be accepted and will be given a zero.

Academic Planner

In order to help students improve study skills and organization, signed Academic Planners are mandatory in sixth grade. Students are responsible for bringing their academic planner to each class every day. Planners must be signed by a parent/guardian each night to be checked by their 2nd period teacher. If a student does not have a signed planner, an effort mark will be given.

Daily Materials:

Planner
2" Binder w/notebook paper
Spiral-ELA
Comp notebook – SS
Supply pouch
Always have a book to read

Grading Policy

Each quarter, grades will be calculated by the total number of points accumulated out of the total number of possible points for all assessed activities.

A = 93-100
B = 86-92
C = 75-85
D = 70-74
F = 69 or below

Grades will be calculated as follows in 6th grade:

Daily work and skills practice will be calculated into a class participation grade which is 40% of the overall grade. Assessments and projects contribute 60% of the overall grade.

Absences/Make-up Work

Homework requests for absent students must be submitted via email to teachers no later than 11am. All work will be sent to the office at 3:00pm. If work was not requested during an absence, students may pick up the copies of their assignments on the '*While You Were Out*' board in our class hall. It is **their responsibility to pick up work after an absence**. Work is due in accordance with the school handbook policy on make-up work.

One additional copy of homework may be requested, but will result in an effort mark.

Directions: Tear off this page and return the next school day. Put this syllabus in your binder.

I understand the learning expectations and classroom rules for Math and Science. I will do all that I can to meet the learning expectations and follow the classroom rules.

Student Name (Print) _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____

I have read and understand the learning expectations and classroom rules for Math and Science.

Parent Signature _____

Date _____