



Grade 6 English Language Arts
Mrs. Lisa Dillon
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Course Description

In ELA this year, students will work to improve their communication skills. Instruction will be focused on meeting the Common Core standards for reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Students will be engaged in the close reading and analysis of literature selections and informational texts. They will read short stories, poetry, plays, novels, and nonfiction selections. While reading, students will cite textual evidence to support inferences and analyze text structures, themes, characters, word choice, and points-of-view.

Students will also explore three main types of writing: narratives, informative essays, and argument essays. When writing narratives, students will focus on the development of plot, setting, and characters. They will also integrate dialogue effectively in their stories. When writing informative and argument essays, students will conduct research, take notes, and include citations of sources.

Required Materials

Students are expected to come to class daily with their charged iPad and a pencil or blue/black ink pen. It is the responsibility of each student to fully charge his or her iPad every night. Students should also bring their home/school folder with plenty of notebook paper. Most of their work will be typed on Google Docs; however, notebook paper is also required. An independent reading book, digital or print, should also be brought to class daily. Highlighters, markers, and colored pencils are helpful but not required.

Classroom Expectations

In the classroom students should always demonstrate the sixth grade guiding principle of respect. This includes respect for self, others, and the environment. Students are expected to follow instructions immediately and observe all classroom and school behavioral requirements. Students must give their best effort and participate appropriately in all classroom activities.

Class Assignments and Homework

If a student does not have a homework assignment on the day it is due, he or she may turn it in within a week for half credit. All writing assignments should be turned in on time. If a student is unable to type a writing assignment on the iPad, a hand-written version on paper should be turned in on time. If a student does not have access to the iPad for any reason, he or she is responsible for obtaining a paper version of all assignments.

It is a student's responsibility to obtain all make-up work immediately after being absent. For each day absent, a student has one day to complete the make-up work for full credit. Homework and make-up assignments can be obtained by checking Schoology.com and Aspen.

After-school help with the teachers is often available on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Students can take the late bus home at 3:45 P.M. Students should check in with a teacher before staying after school. A student should seek help before a test if he or she is struggling with homework and quizzes. Students may also sign up for extra help during the Enrichment and Intervention period.

Grading Policy

Grades are calculated based on student performance in four areas. These areas and their percentage of the total grade are as follows:

- Homework - 10%
- Classwork & Participation (includes warm-ups) - 15%
- Quizzes - 25%
- Tests/Major Writing Assignments/Projects - 50%