

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced Language Arts

## Syllabus

### Terrace Community Middle School 2019-2020

#### Contact Information for L.A. Team Teachers





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#### CONFERENCES AND TUTORING

**Academic 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Team Conferences** are available by appointment only. Teachers hold team conferences, since it is much more beneficial to have the whole team of core academic teachers responsible for a student present at a conference. Please contact the 6<sup>th</sup> grade administrator (Cecelia Diaz) to schedule.

**Extra Help Tutoring** will be held before school on **Tuesdays from 7:45 - 8:10 a.m.** by one or both of the language arts teachers. Students will come directly to their respective Language Arts classroom. Be prepared with questions and examples regarding instruction student needs help with. We highly encourage students to seek help and become their own self-advocates. If a student needs additional help, they can speak with the teacher to arrange a more comprehensive solution.

#### UNITS AND REQUIRED TEXTS

- **REV It Up!** Vocabulary program and workbook (class set)
- **Prentice Hall Literature: "Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes"** (class set)
-  **Choose ONE** of the Summer Reading Novel options:
  - Gathering Blue** by Lois Lowry
  - Dragon Slippers** by Jessica Day George
  - Dark Life** by Kat Falls
-  **Seedfolks** by Paul Fleischman (Sept./Oct. 2019)
-  Historical Fiction Unit: **The War That Saved My Life** by Kimberly Brabaker Bradley (Oct./Nov./Dec. 2019)
- World Folktales and Nonfiction Texts Units (Jan/Feb 2020)
- Poetry Unit (March 2020)
-  Mystery Unit: **The Westing Game** by Ellen Raskin (April/May 2020)
- **Scholastic Scope Magazine** – consumable monthly magazine utilized year round

**All TCMS consumable textbooks** must be purchased from TCMS at the beginning of the school year. Checks made payable to TCMS should be submitted during their homeroom with the student's name and grade level. Students will receive paid consumable items the first week of school.



**All novels** must be purchased at the beginning of the year and will be available at the Barnes & Noble TCMS Book Night on Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30-8:30pm. TCMS will receive a portion of the profits.

## COURSE MATERIALS

- 1 inch, heavy duty, View black binder
- 1 package of 5 tabbed dividers for binder
- 3x5" index cards (keep at home until directed to bring to school; please replace as necessary)
- Supplies used regularly at home – computer/internet & printer
- Loose leaf COLLEGE-RULED paper (in binder & at home) – Please replace as necessary!

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Writing Workshop** is incorporated on a daily basis in the form of reading logs/responses, essays (descriptive, expository, and narrative), research papers, and creative pieces. Much emphasis is placed on the writing process based on the Language Arts Florida Standards Assessment and learning to identify and use parts of speech in writing, as well as practicing both peer and self-editing.

**Major Papers** will need to be typed and formatted according to assignment specifications and will be graded by the teacher using a consistent rubric format. Students will be given appropriate time to complete the paper.

**Reading Workshop** includes a wide variety of activities and discussions associated with class and small group assignments. The students begin by focusing on the elements of a story, literary terms, and techniques. Then they analyze a variety of genres and styles using these terms and techniques. Independent reading is encouraged through the integration of occasional reading logs, text annotations, and book projects.

**Vocabulary Assignments** include basic vocabulary skills using both Greek & Latin roots, basic word structure rules, and vocabulary found in class novels and short stories, as well as additional enrichment activities including the *REV It Up* vocabulary program, standardized test preparation, and creative writing assignments. Additional practice and emphasis will be given to developing and furthering basic spelling rules.

**Grammar, Punctuation, and Usage Assignments/Tests** include assignments in the texts and notes, as well as both homework and in-class practice.

**In-Class Speaking and Listening** includes both informal activities (whole class discussions, group discussions, and partnered discussions) and formal activities (individual and group presentations). Listening skills are enhanced by the reading aloud of students' stories, class novels, and seminar style discussion groups during novel study.

**Technology and Media Literacy Assignments** include posting and responding on various secured student web pages, such as Edsby activities, media responses, and other teacher-directed activities. Students will need to have regular, daily access to the internet to complete online assignments.

## GRADING

### Grading Scale

90-100.....	A	Outstanding
80-89.....	B	Above Average
70-79.....	C	Average
60-69.....	D	Below Average
0-59.....	F	Failing

### Grading Category Weightings

35%.....	Major Assessments
25%.....	Minor Assessments
20%.....	Homework
20%.....	Classwork / Participation

## HOMWORK/CLASSWORK HOLISTIC GRADING RUBRIC

**Outstanding ( ☆ ): 100%** - Exceptional; executed the assignment *beyond* expectations; added *additional* detail/analysis not requested; *surpassed* the model provided.

**Above Average ( v+ ): 90%** - Better than average; all directions followed with obvious attention to detail; somewhat exceeds expectations; somewhat surpasses the model provided.

**Average ( v ): 80%** - Average; all directions followed; assignment legible; evidence that the student followed the model for the assignment.

**Below Average ( v- ): 70%** - Below average; not all directions followed; some problems with neatness and readability of the assignment; minimal evidence of effort or attempt to imitate the model.

**Unsatisfactory ( U ): 60%** - Insufficient; directions not followed; illegible writing; very little/no effort demonstrated.

**Incomplete ( I ): 0%** - Majority of work is not completed or not completed to directions provided.

*\*\*Please note: Teacher has the discretion to add or deduct points based on student's effort and completion of assignment.\*\**

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### Homework & Late Work

- All work is to be completed individually and independently by the student unless otherwise directed by the teacher.
- Late homework will **not** be accepted at any time per TCMS policy. \* (This does not include makeup work for **excused** absences.)
  - Understanding happens in the classroom, but mastery requires additional and regular practice at home. Because our homework is assigned to be meaningful and directly related to concepts covered in class, it is imperative for students to complete all assigned work to fully understand and apply concepts.
  - All work must have student's full heading on it at the time of collection. Full heading includes first and last name, date, and class period. **If work is turned in without a full heading, it is considered incomplete. The student may correct this and turn it in with an automatic 10% reduction.**
- Major Projects **may** be accepted on the next school day, with a 10% penalty, **only** if the student has asked the teacher in **advance (before** the project due date) to extend the pending deadline. There is no guarantee of any allowances.
- TCMS is a technologically-advanced school; thus, assignments involving computer access are due on time. *If a student experiences technical problems while completing an assignment, the student must present a written and signed note (by a parent or guardian) by the due date in order to be considered for additional time to complete the assignment. Without the note the student will receive a 0% for the assignment.*

### Tardiness to Class

Students have 5 minutes between classes to use the restroom and get water. If a student is not in his/her assigned seat at the time of the tardy bell and does not have the teacher's permission to be outside of the classroom, the student is considered tardy and will receive an unexcused tardy.

### Behavior Interventions

Students will be given the opportunity to correct behaviors that are not appropriate. Please see the TCMS Student Handbook for possible interventions and/or consequences for inappropriate behaviors as the sixth grade team will be adhering to these policies for all students.

### Bathroom & Water

- Students are encouraged to use the restrooms between their classes as well as during their lunch break. Per TCMS policy, students will not be permitted to use the restroom 10 minutes after the tardy bell rings and 10 minutes before the end of class unless it is an emergency. This is to ensure students are not missing pertinent instruction during class time.
- If students need to use the restroom, they should simply raise their hands and wait for the teacher to give them permission.
- Bathroom breaks during tests and quizzes are not permitted unless it is an emergency.
- Water bottles are strongly encouraged, as water breaks will only be taken during passing time.

## **TCMS Expectations**

1. Students must wear appropriate uniforms at all times: shirts must be tucked in and belts worn at all times. ID badge must be worn on a lanyard around the neck.
2. Bring appropriate class materials daily.
3. Be seated, writing homework in planner, and working on bellwork when the bell rings.
4. Respect yourself, others, and the learning environment. Always try your best!
5. Use the TCMS planner daily. Write homework and assignments in the planner as written on the classroom board word for word. Do not color-in, fold, or deface planner. It will be used for parent & teacher communication; therefore, it is an official school document. It requires weekly parent signatures for the Friday planner checks during Language Arts.
6. Stay informed of academic progress by regularly checking TCMS grades on Edsby.
7. Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero, a detention, and a referral step. This includes copying others' work, plagiarism, and cheating.

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is defined as *"an act or instance of using or closely imitating the language and thoughts of another author without authorization and the representation of that author's work as one's own, as by not crediting the original author."* (Dictionary.com) If a student intentionally takes another person's writing and uses it as their own (i.e. cutting and pasting or directly copying text from online), they can expect to receive a zero on the assignment and a step on a behavior referral resulting in a meeting with their GLA and after school detentions. The Language Arts teacher and/or the grade level administrator will be contacting the child's parent/guardian to explain the situation and the seriousness of the infraction.

## **PROJECTED CURRICULUM**

### ***Writing:***

Descriptive/Expository Writing  
Persuasive/Argument Writing  
Creative Narrative Writing

### ***Literature:***

Short Stories/Folktales  
Elements of Plot Structure  
Elements of Fiction  
-Science Fiction/Fantasy  
-Realistic Fiction  
-Historical Fiction  
-Mystery  
Analyzing Nonfiction Text  
Analyzing Theme  
Poetry Elements & Analysis  
Analyzing Figurative Language

### ***Grammar:***

Parts of Speech  
Conventions  
Sentence Structure

### ***Vocabulary:***

Integrated Vocabulary  
Root Structures, Synonyms, & Antonyms  
Text Recognition

### ***Reading:***

Fluency  
Reading Strategies: predicting, author's purpose; cause & effect; signposts  
Inference  
Main Idea/Supporting Details  
Compare/Contrast  
Context Clues

### ***Speaking and Listening:***

Class Discussions: incorporating and building on others' ideas  
Class Presentations  
Critical Thinking Strategies

**Our Advanced Language Arts curriculum is supported by the *Language Arts Florida Standards* and is designed to lead all children toward college and career readiness.**

*We have read this information and will do our best to adhere to these policies.*

\_\_\_\_\_ (Student Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Guardian Signature)