

6th Grade Advanced Language Arts Syllabus

Terrace Community Middle School

2017-2018

Contact Information for L.A. Team Teachers





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Conferences and Tutoring

Academic 6th 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 6th 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 & Required Texts

- *Prentice Hall Writing and Grammar Workbook* for 6th grade (consumable provided by school)
- *REV It Up!* Vocabulary program and workbook (class set)
- Prentice Hall Literature: “*Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes*” (class set)
-  ***Gathering Blue*** by Lois Lowry - Science Fiction/Fantasy Genre (summer reading novel)
-  ***Seedfolks*** by Paul Fleischman (Sept./Oct. 2017)
- World Folktales, Poetry, and Storytelling Unit (Nov./Dec. 2017)
-  ***The Book of Three*** by Lloyd Alexander (Jan/Feb 2018)
-  ***The Westing Game*** by Ellen Raskin (April/May 2018)
- ***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 will be available at the Barnes & Noble TCMS Book Night on Tuesday, August 22nd from 5:30-8:30pm. TCMS will receive a portion of the profits.

6th Grade Advanced Language Arts Course Materials

- FLEXIBLE soft-sided 1 inch black binder (No hard-sided binders or trapper keepers allowed)
- 1 package of 5 tabbed dividers for binder
- 3x5" index cards (keep at home until directed to bring to school)
- Supplies used regularly at home - computer/internet & printer
- Loose leaf COLLEGE-RULED paper (in binder & at home) - Please replace as necessary!

General Activities

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 and 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

Homework/Classwork Holistic Grading Rubric

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

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

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

Below Average (J-): 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 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 the classroom 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

Grammar:

Parts of Speech
Conventions
Sentence Structure

Literature:

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

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)