**Mrs. Meredith**

**6th Grade English Language Arts**

**Bailey Middle School**

# **2019-2020**

To be successful in life, students must be adequately prepared and able to communicate effectively with others. The curriculum for English Language Arts is designed to continue students’ exposure to a variety of literary texts with adequate understanding, and to refine grammar skills and improve writing through the writing process. In this course, students will understand that learning is an ACTIVE process. They will participate in class discussions and group work. Students will attempt not to simply memorize, but to learn and to understand material presented to them; they will understand that education is vital to the rest of their lives.

**EXPECTATIONS**

In addition to all rules and regulations outlined in the student handbook, I wish to add the following:

* Students are expected to come to class each day with their pencil, book, completed homework assignment, binder, and a positive attitude.
* Students are expected to follow five basic rules:

 **1. Be on time.**

1. **Be prepared.**
2. **Be respectful.**
3. **Follow directions.**
4. **Do your best.**

**MATERIALS**

* 3 ring binder
* 2 Composition Notebooks
* 5 Subject Spiral Notebook
* Loose leaf notebook paper
* 1 Yellow Folder w/Prongs
* Highlighters
* Pencils/Erasers
* Post-It notes
* 1 pack of colored pencils
* Glue Sticks

**TEXTBOOKS**

Students will not be issued their own textbook because classroom sets of textbooks will be provided. Students will be able to access the Literature textbook online from home. Login information will be given in class. If students cannot access the textbook online, they can check out a copy of the text to use at home.

**AGENDAS**

Each student will be given an agenda. They will write down assignments, homework, due dates, or other information given by the teacher. Each student will be required to bring their agenda to class, and will be held accountable for keeping it up to date and filling out the necessary information each day in class. You are encouraged to ask to see your child’s agenda, as it can be used as a form of communication between teacher and parent.

**HOMEWORK**

Homework is an effective tool in developing responsibility, study habits, and skills. It is an extension of the learning process, and will be purposeful, related to classroom experiences, and age and grade appropriate. Homework will make up 10% of the overall grade. In order to receive full credit, assignments must be completed neatly, accurately, and handed in on time. Parents should read and sign students’ agendas each evening to discover what homework has been assigned for each day. If a situation arises, we will communicate student behaviors via the attached behavior sheet in the agenda.

**Accepting Late Work**

If the student was present in class on the due date, the work may be given less credit. There will be a 10 point deduction for each day an assignment is late. Any work submitted by a student after 5 days cannot receive a grade higher than a 50.

**READING LOGS:**

The only way for a student to become a better reader is to READ! Therefore, students are required to read at least 100 minutes a week. Students are responsible for keeping a reading log. The reading log will contain free reading, journal reading, and assigned fiction/non-fiction articles. A parent must initial their child’s reading log to obtain credit. Students will be given 10 points a week for reading 100 minutes and having parent signatures.

**Metacognitive Logs**

Students are also responsible for keeping a metacognitive log. Metacognitive logs help students become more aware of their thinking as readers and give them more control over their learning. It’s a place for students to think and write about their own reading process. Students are required to complete a least 5 entries each week.

**Reading, Novels, and Projects**

Reading will be taught using the NC approved text, Literature 6. We will also read at least two novels in language arts this year. During the novel studies the concepts required within the Common Core Standards are emphasized. A variety of Units of Study which include required concepts will be introduced throughout the school year.

**Daily Writing Assignments and Grammar**

Writing is a very important focus in language arts class. Students will write journal entries to improve writing skills, argumentative pieces to develop higher level thinking skills, informative essays to practice formal writing styles, and poetry to express creativity. Grammar lessons, tests, quizzes and activities will help to improve grammar skills.

**Vocabulary**

Vocabulary will be studied through Stems and Word Wall Words which represent concepts that the Common Core Standards require in Sixth Grade. The knowledge of classical word roots and stems will serve students throughout their academic career and beyond.

**GRADING PROCEDURES:**

Students are graded on a percentage basis as required by Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools. Daily class work assignments, homework, and quizzes make up 35% of the grade, projects/test make up 65% of the grade. A score of zero will be assigned to an assignment or assessment on which a student made no attempt to complete or which is missing. A copy of students’ grades can be printed as needed from Power School, our grade recording system, and parents may also see their student’s grade by using Parent Assistant as explained in the Bailey Student Handbook.

**Grading Scale:**

90 – 100 = A

80 – 90 = B

70 – 80 = C

60 – 70 = D

Below 60 = F

**Student Absences**

Upon returning to school following an absence, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the teacher to request make-up work. If a student is absent, he/she will have the number of days absent to make up work. For example, if a student is absent for 2 days, then he/she will have two days to make up any assignments. If a

student is absent on the day of a test or the day a project is due, then the student is expected to take the test or hand the project in upon returning to school. **It is the student’s responsibility to get missing work.**

**80% Mastery**

Students who fail to score at least 70% on an assessment (major tests or formal assessments) will have an opportunity to retake the assessment once. Tutoring is a requirement before retesting. The retest score obtained may be higher than 70%, but the grade book grade will not reflect anything higher than 70% for a re-test score. For example: If the first score is a 60% and the second score is 90%, then the final grade book score will be 70%. The maximum re-test score a student can earn is 70%.

**EOG REVIEW:**

Just before administration of North Carolina EOGs, students will be engaged in an intense review of concepts taught throughout the school year. Students will also learn effective test taking skills to help prepare them for EOGs.

**PARENT/ TEACHER RELATIONSHIP**

I believe that a good parent-teacher relationship is necessary for maximum school success. I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at any time. The following are ways to contact me directly:

1. Email: tracy.meredith@cms.k12.nc.us

 (easiest and quickest way to reach me)

 2) Call: 980-343-1068

 3) Send a note in with your student

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**I have read and understand Mrs. Meredith’s sixth grade Language Arts syllabus. I agree to follow these rules and expectations.**

**Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**