

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

Mrs. Swenson

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Welcome to 6<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts! Language Arts teachers work closely together to immerse students in the Florida Standards, including the areas of literature, informational text, writing, speaking & listening, and language.

Middle School Language Arts is the forum for students to explore and understand the past, present, and future through literature and writing. This course enables students to study the elements of Language Arts through short stories, nonfiction, drama, poetry, novels, and various writing units. Student voices will not only be heard through discussions about text, but through writing as well. Emphasis will be placed on independent and higher level thinking skills and responding to text through writing. The goal of the middle school language arts program is to develop lifelong readers and writers who can successfully communicate in our global society.

**Supplies:** Students are expected to have: **a 1 ½” 3 ring binder, packet of binder dividers (packet of 5), paper, pencils, glue sticks, mini stapler, personal pencil sharpener and ear buds** with them in class every day. Other items they should have include: highlighters, colored pencils, post-it notes. Because there are days that I integrate technology in my classroom, **it is recommended that students have an electronic device that they can bring to school with them on a daily basis**, though it is not mandatory. **Students should be respectful and keep their device in their backpack**. Students that do not have their own device will have access to class technology or complete the work paper/pencil. Students should keep a book with them at ALL times for designated silent reading time or in the event that work is completed early. If students don't know what they should read, I can provide book suggestions.

**Grading:** Language Arts will be graded using a points system. All assignments will be divided into two categories: assignments or assessments. Everything is weighted the same, although the points for assignments will vary, depending upon the assignment, its difficulty, and its correlation to the focus standard. For example, a homework assignment may be worth 10 points, while an essay is worth 50 points. The point value assigned to each assignment will determine the cumulative grade each grading period and may be changed at any time, at the teacher's discretion. Please refer to the MyStudent gradebook to track student grades and assignments.

**Assignments:** The assignments category will include classwork and homework.

**Homework:** Students will be expected to read for at least 20 minutes each evening. Other homework could include reading, written assignments, reviewing notes, online practice, and/or studying or completing work not finished in class. Students are responsible for keeping up with their myLearning Modules.

**Assessments:** Students will have assessments throughout the year to determine their proficiency level of a concept. These could take a variety of formats, like performance task, short response, essay, multiple choice, project, etc. Throughout the year, students will be given writing assignments and projects. These will be assigned in advance, so that there is ample time to complete it to the best of their ability. As they are assigned, information will be posted on myStudent and given to each student. Many assessments will require students to submit their response electronically via myPascoConnect apps.

**Late Work/ Make-Up Work:** Students are expected to have their work turned in on time. Students who are absent will have two days per day of *excused* absence to complete their work. Please note that any work assigned prior to an absence is not considered make-up work and is due upon the student's return. It is the student's responsibility to check for missing assignments and/or the absent work bin upon their return.

**\*\*\*If your student is absent due to being quarantined or has other health-related issues that will cause consecutive absences, please check the Announcements page on myLearning for the weekly agenda.**

**Grade Scale:** A=90%-100% , B=80%-89% , C=70%-79% , D=60%-69% = D, F=below 60%

**Controversial Issues:** The Board recognizes that a course of study or certain instructional materials may contain content and/or activities that some parents find objectionable. If after careful, personal review of the program lessons and/or materials, a parent indicates to the school that either the content or the activity conflicts with his religious beliefs or value system, the school will consider a written request for his child to be excused from a particular class for specified reasons. The student, however, will not be excused from participating in the course and will be provided alternate learning activities during times of such parent requested absences.

**Student Rules and Behavioral Expectations:** Students are expected to follow the code of conduct as outlined in the Rushe planner on MyLearning. Consequences: 1. Verbal Warning, 2. Lunch Detention, 3. Parent Contact, 4. Referral.

### **Online Programs**

**Single Sign On:** All of programs listed below may be accessed through Single-Sign On: Click on <https://launchpad.classlink.com/dsbpc> and sign on. The user name is the student's lunch number and the password is their usual 8-digit password (funky password). Once logged in, students can access the programs with one click, instead of having to go into each program and signing into each one.

**MyLearning (Canvas)** – This is a Pasco County site that requires a log in. Students will be given their login information to keep in their interactive notebook or they can access it through Single Sign-On. I use this site to post information for students. In addition, students will participate in discussions, quizzes and turn assignments in on this site. Parents can create an account to monitor their student's activity on MyLearning.

### **Families: Stay Connected**

*We have many opportunities to stay connected with what is going on at school and in class. Here are some ways to keep connected. These are not required, but are a great way for you stay in the loop.*

**E-Mail** - Do not hesitate to e-mail [cswenson@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:cswenson@pasco.k12.fl.us) if you have a question or concern.

**MyStudent:** This is an online gradebook that parents and students should access daily to see upcoming assignments, missing work, and scores on graded assignments.

**Text Reminders** – I've signed up for an account on Remind.com that will allow me to send a text out to students and parents who sign up. This will be used to send reminders about tests and/or quizzes, projects, homework, or other important news. **Class Code:**

**Teacher reserves the right to amend the syllabus at any time.**

*Please complete the following information*

Dear Parent/Guardian(s),

I am honored to have your son/daughter in my class this year. It is my goal to expand their depth of knowledge in literary and informational text analysis and writing skills and show them the joys of being a life-long learner. Please read over the course syllabus and then print and sign your name, provide an e-mail address, and the best number to reach you during school hours on the lines provided.

Thank you,  
Mrs. Swenson

**Please turn in the following information by Friday August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_