



Liberty Middle School

281 Dock Murphy Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

6th Grade English Language Arts

Mrs. Bess House

Teacher Contact Information	Email: bmhouse@madisoncity.k12.al.us Classroom Phone: 256-430-0001 ext. 83243				
Classroom Digital Platforms	Webpage Link: https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/1108 Schoology Link: https://madisoncity.schoology.com				
Textbook Information	<p>Primary Resource: Classroom Novels (listed below)</p> <p>Students in on-level Language Arts classes are not required (but are highly encouraged) to purchase their own copies of the novels we will read in class. We will hold a novel sale in the coming weeks, where you can purchase these books and have them delivered directly to your student. More information will be sent home about this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Fish in a Tree</i> by Lynda Mullay Hunt - <i>Restart</i> by Gordon Korman - <i>A Night Divided</i> by Jennifer Nielsen - <i>The Honest Truth</i> by Dan Gemeinhart <p>Supplemental Resources: iReady: https://login.i-ready.com/ No Red Ink: https://www.noredink.com/ Common Lit: https://www.commonlit.org/en <i>McGraw Hill StudySync Reading and Writing Companion</i> - Students can access this through Schoology.</p> <p><i>Parents and guardians can access other supplementary materials through the Schoology platform.</i></p>				
Course Description	<p>“Sixth grade Language Arts will continue students’ growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussion, and reflection. Reading strategies, critical thinking skills, vocabulary building, and a continued focus on writing comprise the main elements of reading instruction. The focus for writing instruction will be narrative, informational, and argumentative writing with requirements based on Alabama College and Career Ready standards. The overall goal of the class is to increase the literacy and writing ability of students. Outside reading and summer reading are required.” (p.3 from the Madison City Schools Course Catalog)</p>				
Course Objectives	<p>Students will develop and strengthen critical thinking skills by reading, comprehending, and engaging with both literary and informational texts. Students will make text-to-text, text-to-world, and text-to-self connections. Students will be able to identify, define, and duplicate examples of figurative language found in texts. They will demonstrate their understanding of the text through various formative and summative assessments. Students will display the convergence of their independent thoughts and textual examples in the writing of paragraphs and essays, as well as develop clear and concise writing skills through the execution of writing assignments and the application of proofreading and editing skills. Students will also improve their writing through the increased understanding and application of grammar, mechanics, and vocabulary skills. Students will be able to respectfully engage critically and constructively in a dialogue of ideas through class discussion, small group assignments, and project-based learning. Students will develop and display clear written and verbal communication skills.</p>				
Course Outline	<p>We will cover the following skills this year:</p> <p>1st Nine Weeks</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="451 1913 1552 1969"> <tr> <td data-bbox="451 1913 820 1969">Reading</td> <td data-bbox="820 1913 1188 1969">Writing</td> <td data-bbox="1188 1913 1552 1969">Grammar</td> </tr> </table>		Reading	Writing	Grammar
Reading	Writing	Grammar			

Review of 5th Grade skills Types of Conflict Nonfiction Text Structures	Elements of CDC Writing Persuasive Writing	Capitalization Subjects Verbs
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2nd Nine Weeks

Reading	Writing	Grammar
Theme Point of View Research Skills Plot	Explanatory/Informative Essays Narrative Writing	Subject/Verb Agreement

3rd Nine Weeks

Reading	Writing	Grammar
Poetry Analysis Figurative Language Conflict/Theme Review	Review Modes of Writing	Pronouns

4th Nine Weeks

Reading	Writing	Grammar
Review of Literary Elements	Text Dependent Writing	Punctuation

**This is subject to change.*

Classroom Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No cellphones allowed during instructional time. ● Be respectful. Respect yourselves, each other, visitors, the teacher, and the room. ● Be in your seat and working when the bell rings. Students tardy to class will receive a detention per LMS policy. ● Be silent and listening when someone else is speaking. ● Follow directions the first time they are given. ● Have all materials, supplies, and homework for class. ● If it is not yours don't touch it. Keep hands and feet to yourself. <p>All students must follow the Madison City Schools Code of Conduct.</p>
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Progressive Discipline (LMS Policy)	<p>Liberty Middle School Classroom Management Plan:</p> <p>Step 1: Verbal warning</p> <p>Step 2: Student/teacher conference with parent notification</p> <p>Step 3: Parent contact/conference</p> <p>Step 4: Detention</p> <p>Step 5: Referral to administration for repeat Class I violations and initial Class II and Class III offenses (Madison City Schools Code of Conduct)</p>
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Grading Policy (MCS Policy)	<p>60% = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects)</p> <p>40% = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation)</p>
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Late Work Policy	<p>Late work will be accepted until the end of the instructional unit, with a 10% deduction in points. Any assignments turned in after the final unit test will be accepted, with a 30% deduction. The student must email the teacher upon submitting late work in order to receive credit. No late work will be accepted after the end of the nine weeks.</p>
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Make-up Work/ Test Policy	<p>Students will be allowed to make up work for excused absences. Work should be made up in a timely manner. If unusual circumstances exist, the principal may extend the time allowed to complete the work. For unexcused absences, students will receive zeros for all work (including tests) missed.</p> <p>The scheduled days for English Language Arts tests are Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students will be notified in advance of tests to prepare in a timely manner. If school is closed, tests may be given on the following school day.</p>
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<p>Technology and Cell Phone Procedures</p>	<p>Students should bring their MCS chromebooks and chargers to class each day. Teachers monitor student activity and participation; however, students are responsible for their activity on school-issued devices and using their MCS accounts.</p> <p>Cell phones and earbuds/headphones will not be allowed to be used during classroom instruction time. Phones and earbuds/headphones will be put away in a location designated by the teacher and placed in silent mode. Students will have access to their phones and earbuds/headphones outside of classroom instruction time, such as between classes and during lunch, but devices should be put away when students are in the serving line. Failure to follow these procedures will result in a disciplinary referral to the office.</p>
<p>Accommodations</p>	<p>Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.</p>
<p>Materials & Supplies</p>	<p>You can find the LMS School Supply List on the LMS website.</p>
<p>Homework</p>	<p>Homework will be assigned when appropriate. Additionally, independent reading will be assigned, and students will be expected to read novels of their choice at home each night. More details about the independent reading assignment will be sent home soon.</p>
<p>Classroom Library</p>	<p>This year your child will have an opportunity to choose from a variety of books to read. They will not only have access to the school library but also to my classroom library. I have not had the opportunity to read all of the classroom library books. I am asking that you work with me as a team and help monitor and become involved in the books your child is reading. If you would like your child to access my classroom library, no signature is needed. However, if you do not wish for your child to read from my classroom library, please initial by the statement below.</p> <p>_____ I do not wish for my child to use Mrs. House's classroom library.</p>
<p>Parent & Student Acknowledgment</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2024-25 Mrs. House's Syllabus Signature Form</p> <p>Please complete the following with either YES or NO in the blank, and then sign below.</p> <p>_____ I have read and understand Mrs. House's classroom policies, procedures, expectations, and syllabus.</p> <p>_____ My child will have internet access daily at home.</p> <p>_____ I have additional comments/concerns about my child. (If so, please list below)</p> <p>Student signature: _____</p> <p>Parent signature: _____</p> <p>Today's date: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Due by August 9, 2024</i></p>