



Liberty Middle School

281 Dock Murphy Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

6th Grade English Language Arts

Ms. Sara Tolleson

Teacher Contact Information	Email: sgtolleson@madisoncity.k12.al.us Classroom Phone: 256-430-0001 ext. 83247							
Classroom Digital Platforms	Webpage Link: https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/1108 Schoology Link: https://madisoncity.schoology.com							
Textbook Information	<p>Various Classroom Novels -These will be used as a primary resource. <i>McGraw Hill StudySync Reading and Writing Companion</i> - This text will be used as a supplemental resource.</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>Restart</i> by Gordon Korman - <i>Towers Falling</i> by Jewell Parker Rhodes - <i>Fish in a Tree</i> by Lynda Mulla Hunt - <i>A Night Divided</i> by Jennifer Nielsen - <i>Holes</i> by Louis Sachar 							
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 1808 1552 1963"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="451 1808 818 1871">Reading</th> <th data-bbox="818 1808 1185 1871">Writing</th> <th data-bbox="1185 1808 1552 1871">Grammar</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="451 1871 818 1963">Review of 5th Grade skills Types of Conflict</td> <td data-bbox="818 1871 1185 1963">Elements of CDC Writing Narrative Writing</td> <td data-bbox="1185 1871 1552 1963">Capitalization Subjects</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Reading	Writing	Grammar	Review of 5th Grade skills Types of Conflict	Elements of CDC Writing Narrative Writing	Capitalization Subjects
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Nonfiction Text Structures Research Skills Elements of Drama		Verbs
2nd Nine Weeks		
Reading	Writing	Grammar
Theme Point of View Figurative Language	Explanatory/Informative Essays	Subject/Verb Agreement
3rd Nine Weeks		
Reading	Writing	Grammar
Plot Poetry Analysis Conflict/Theme Review	Persuasive/ Argumentative Essays Identifying Prompt Types	Pronouns
4th Nine Weeks		
Reading	Writing	Grammar
Review of Literary Elements	Text Dependent Writing	Punctuation
<i>*This is subject to change.</i>		

Classroom Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be respectful. Respect yourselves, each other, visitors, the teacher, and the room. ● Be in your seat and working when the bell rings. ● 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.
Progressive Discipline <i>(LMS Policy)</i>	Step 1: Verbal warning Step 2: Student/teacher conference Step 3: Parent contact/conference Step 4: Detention and a parent contact Step 5: Office referral
Grading Policy <i>(MCS Policy)</i>	60% = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects) 40% = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation)
Late Work Policy	Late work will be accepted up to 3 days after the initial due date, with a deduction of 10 points each day it's late. After 3 days, the highest grade students can make is 70 percent. The student must email the teacher upon submitting late work in order to receive credit.
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>

<p>Technology</p>	<p>Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers. Neither the teacher, nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops. Laptops and other electronic devices will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher.</p> <p>6th grade students should bring their MCS issued chromebooks and chargers each day. If students do not have a device, an alternative paper-pencil assignment will be provided.</p>
<p>Accomodations</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>Parent & Student Acknowledgment</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2023-24 Ms. Tolleson's Syllabus Signature Form</p> <p>Please complete the following with either <u>YES</u> or <u>NO</u> in the blank, and then sign below.</p> <p>_____ I have read and understand Ms. Tolleson'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 10, 2023</i></p>