

## **Middle School Language Arts 2011-12 Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade**

Welcome to Middle School Language Arts Class. We will be writing and editing, speaking and listening, learning the proper usage of the English language, learning correct spelling and new vocabulary, reading fiction, nonfiction, poetry and drama. You will find an Overview of the Topics we will learn throughout the year along with topics to be covered for each quarter in this syllabus.

### **Overview of Yearly Curriculum for Language Arts 2011-12**

6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Writing, Grammar and Usage

- A. Writing and Research
- B. Speaking and Listening
- C. Grammar and Usage
- D. Spelling
- E. Vocabulary

Fiction, Nonfiction and Drama

- A. Short Stories
- B. Novels
- C. Independent Reading
- D. Essays and Speeches
- E. Autobiography
- F. Drama
- G. Literary Terms
- H. Poems and Poetry

**Writing:** we will be using writing prompts levels 6, 7 and 8 to write descriptive, poetry, narrative, imaginative, expository and persuasive papers. These prompts are cards will allow you to select a card of your own choosing to write your paper. There will also be an instruction card to help you begin your topic. We will also be writing a research paper with citations using the MLA form during the month of February.

**Grammar and Usage** we will be using "English" by Houghton Mifflin. This is a textbook with twice weekly assignments on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**Spelling** we will be using the Sitton Spelling Series with added commonly misspelled words. There is no textbook for this series. Weekly Unit Words will be given with an introduction to the words on Mondays (writing the words and making sentences with the words) and Spelling test on Fridays.

**Vocabulary** we will be using a level workbook in a series in which students will be introduced to the words every two weeks and use the words in various assignments and ways to develop better understanding and word knowledge, which will help to improve reading comprehension. Vocabulary Assignments for the week on Mondays and due on Thursdays.

### **Reading**

We will be reading orally 1-2 novels as a class each quarter with study questions and a final on each novel. Along with one monthly silent reading book (no report for December or June). Of the 7 books each grade will be required to read a leather bound classic from the Jr. High Leather Bound Collection. There will be 10 minutes per period given to silent reading with the suggestion of reading a chosen novel for the month. Requirements are: 6<sup>th</sup> grade-1 classic, 7<sup>th</sup> grade 2 classics and 8<sup>th</sup> grade 3 classics of the 7 book reports for the year. Other novels for reports are of the student's choice with the approval of the teacher. The leather bound classic report can be a simple one page summary of the book, but the other reports must be in one of the forms from the book report projects. See attached sheet as the end of the syllabus.

Our General Language Arts Schedule will be:

Monday: Silent Reading, Spelling introduction, Vocabulary introduction or review

Tuesday: Silent Reading, English, Class Novel

Wednesday: Silent Reading, Class Novel

Thursday: Silent Reading, check vocabulary, English, Class Novel

Friday: Silent Reading Spelling Test, Writing from Writing Prompts

### 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

#### 6,7, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

Writing, Grammar and Usage

Writing and Research

- A. Write a **Narrative Paper and Descriptive Paper** using Writing Prompts Cards
- B. Speaking and Listening
  - a. Participate civilly and productively in group discussions,
  - b. Give a short speech telling your life story to the class that is well-organized and well-supported using your narrative paper.
  - c. Demonstrate an ability to use standard pronunciation when speaking to large groups.
- C. Grammar (From the English Book)
  - a. Parts of the Sentence
  - b. Noun and Verb
- D. Spelling and Vocabulary (From Weekly Units and Vocabulary Workbook)
  - a. Spelling with attention to commonly misspelled words.
  - b. Vocabulary building through weekly units with attention to increasing word meanings and usage. Vocabulary meanings introduced through the reading series and novels.

Fiction and Drama

Independent Reading of one novel from the Jr. High Collection

Novels that will be read as a class:

- a. 6<sup>th</sup> grade: Indian in the Cupboard, 7<sup>th</sup> grade: the Adventure of Tom Sawyer. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Book Reports: one each month from your own selection

Silent Reading of one classic novel from the Jr. High Leather Bound Library or novel of your choosing--10 minutes in class per day with a report due at the end of each month.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter

#### 6, 7, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

Writing and Research

- a. write an **Imaginative Paper and Poetry from Writing Prompts**

Speaking and Listening

Continue with:

- a. Participate civilly and productively in group discussions,
- b. **Memorize and Recite to the class a poem** from the given selections

Grammar Usage "English Book"

- a. Finish Nouns and Verbs
- b. Modifiers

Spelling and Vocabulary Weekly Units

- a. Spelling of commonly misspelled words
- b. Vocabulary building meanings and usage. Vocabulary meanings introduced through the reading series and novels through weekly units with attention to increasing word knowledge and understanding.

## Fiction and Drama

Novels to be read in class: 6<sup>th</sup> grade: Where the Red Fern Grows and A Wrinkle in Time, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Walk Two Moons and The Giver. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Outsiders and Parallel Journeys

Book Reports: one each month from your own selection

Silent Reading of one classic novel from the Jr. High Leather Bound Library or novel of your choosing--10 minutes in class per day with a report due at the end of each month.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

#### Writing and Research

Write a **Research Paper** of 5-6 pages double spaced with attention to:

- Developing five or six open-ended questions on your topic.
- Gathering relevant data through library and internet sources.
- Summarizing, paraphrasing and quoting accurately when taking notes
- Defining a thesis
- Organizing with an outline
- Using quotations from sources
- Acknowledging sources and avoiding plagiarism
- Preparing a bibliography.

#### Speaking and Listening

- a. Participate civilly and productively group discussions
- b. Give a short speech Demonstration Speech to the class that is well-organized and well-supported.

#### Grammar Usage "English Book"

- c. Capitalization and Punctuation
- d. Pronouns

#### Spelling and Vocabulary Weekly Units

- a. Continue with commonly misspelled words
- b. Vocabulary building meanings and usage meanings introduced through the reading series and novels through weekly units with attention to increasing word

## Fiction and Drama

Novels to be read in class:6<sup>th</sup> grade: finish Wrinkle in Time and Begin From the Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankwieler. 7<sup>th</sup> grade: Finish The Giver and Begin Old Man and The Sea. 8<sup>th</sup> grade: finish Parallel Journeys and begin the Marian Chronicles

Book Reports: one each month from your own selection

Silent Reading of one classic novel from the Jr. High Leather Bound Library or novel of your choosing--10 minutes in class per day with a report due at the end of each month.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 6, 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

#### Writing and Research

- a. Write a **Persuasive paper** and an **Expository paper**—from the Writing Prompts

#### Speaking and Listening

- a. participate civilly and productively in class discussion
- b. develop and edit a short group video 2-3 minutes long with content approved by teacher

#### Grammar From English Book

- a. Prepositional Phrases
- b. Complex Sentences

#### Spelling and Vocabulary Weekly Units

- a. Spelling of commonly misspelled words
- b. Vocabulary building meanings and usage. Vocabulary meanings introduced through the reading series and novels through weekly units with attention to increasing word

#### Fiction and Drama

Novels to be read in class: 6<sup>th</sup> grade: Finish The Golden Goblet and read Snow Treasure. 7<sup>th</sup> grade: Finish Old Man and the Sea and read Tuck Everlasting. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Cont. M. Chronicles and read excerpts from Hamlet

Book Reports: one each month from your own selection

Silent Reading of one classic novel from the Jr. High Leather Bound Library or novel of your choosing--10 minutes in class per day with a report due at the end of each month.

#### Book Report Projects for Middle School 2011-12

One report/project each month on a preapproved novel . All requirements involve writing using one or more of the seven learner characteristics. All Classics from the leather bound jr.high library can be a simple one page summary. All other monthly reports on novels must be from one of the choices below. You may not use a choice more than once per year.

From Your Novel choose one of the following methods.

1. Imagine you are a Hollywood screenwriter. In a one-page writing, describe what story scenes you would film and what scenes you would not film and why.
2. Draw a 12 frame (or more) comic strip of your novel. (six frames per paper per side)with one or two sentences per frame.
3. Create a board game of the plot of your novel. Write about how the game relates to the book.(1/2 page)
4. Select a key scene from the novel and create a diorama of it and write a 1/2 page descriptive paper on the diorama.
5. Draw the main characters on large paper. Include collage pictures and words from magazines to describe each character.
6. Write a one-page new ending for the story.
7. Write a one-act play about one important chapter in the book.
8. Write a newspaper-style article as if the story were happening today.
9. Create a new design for a book cover. Use the back or the inside of the cover to write a short summary of the story( 1/2 page)
10. Write the essence of the story in a poem(at least 12 lines long)
11. Write about a possible video game that uses the story elements. (one page)
12. Paint or sketch at least 5 main scenes from the story.(one sentence per scene)Write one or two sentences about each picture.
13. Compose a rap or song(it's okay to use a common melody approved by the teacher) that tells the story (at least 12 lines long).

**Classroom Expectations:**

I expect a safe, peaceful and caring classroom environment, which allows all students to learn to the best of their abilities without any fear of being put down, teased or harmed in any way.

**BE RESPONSIBLE, RESPECTFUL AND ACCOUNTABLE!**

**FOLLOW the SIX Jr. High Behavior RULES!! Plus.....**

**Be on time**, tardiness is unacceptable and will be recorded in yellow book.

**Be prepared**: bring a pencil, folder, paper and textbook. Be in your seat and ready before the bell rings.

**Complete assignments on time**. Parents will be notified about missing assignments and lengthy pending assignments through emails.

If absent, request make-up work from the teacher. It is YOUR responsibility to get make-up work back in a timely manner.

**At the end of class**

1. Record your homework assignments in your planners.
2. Clean your area and return any supplies.
3. Put your textbooks away on the shelf
4. I will dismiss you when all is in order.

**Grade Scale: A-100-93; B 92—87; C 86-77 ; D 76-68; F 67 and below**

\*\* The grade is determined by the quality of work and the timeliness of assignments.  
The quarterly grade is composed of three components:

Tests & Quizzes = 40%    Class work /Homework = 40%    Classroom Participation = 20%

Supplies for students:

3 Folders for Keeping Assignments and Loose leaf paper

To be shared by the classroom:

50 Pencils, one or two red for peer checking/editing and 200 sheets of loose leaf paper

RETURN TO MRS. SWISTON

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email for contact with parents on major and missing work \_\_\_\_\_

Father's name \_\_\_\_\_ Place of employment \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Cell phone/pager \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's name \_\_\_\_\_ Place of employment \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's work phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone/pager \_\_\_\_\_

Number of siblings \_\_\_\_\_

What careers interest you? \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite:

Foods \_\_\_\_\_ Sports \_\_\_\_\_

Movies \_\_\_\_\_ Books \_\_\_\_\_

TV Shows \_\_\_\_\_ Magazines \_\_\_\_\_

Pets \_\_\_\_\_ Hobbies \_\_\_\_\_

Talent/Skill \_\_\_\_\_ Collections \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledgement (PLEASE RETURN TO TEACHER)

Student Signature: My signature indicates that I have read and understand the expectations and classroom policies in the Language Arts Syllabus.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Date

Parent or Guardian Signature: My signature indicates that I have read and understand the expectations and classroom policies for my son/daughter in the Language Arts Syllabus.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature date