



THERON L. SWAINSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL 2020-2021

School-Wide Rules (Safety, Organization, Achievement, Respect)

1. Keep food and drink in the cafeteria
2. Keep hands, feet, objects, and unkind words to yourself
3. Hats, unacceptable clothing, hoop earrings and other nuisance items will be confiscated and returned only to a parent/guardian.
4. The use of personal cell phones, beepers, pagers or other electronic communication devices is prohibited during the instructional day. As long as use is not disruptive, students may use these devices during scheduled lunch periods and while on the bus. These devices must remain off during instructional time including any time between classes. These items will be confiscated if used other than the times indicated above.
5. Students will be prepared and ready for instruction daily.
6. Refrain from chewing gum on campus.
7. Show respect for yourself, others, and school property.

Follow the Thunderbird Norms

1. No one has the right to hurt another person.
2. Education and the classroom are essential priorities.
3. Show pride in your school.
4. Always act as a respectful lady or gentleman.
5. Never behave in a way to misrepresent yourself, your family, your peers, or your school.

Course Expectations English Language Arts 2020-2021	Progressive Discipline: 1st Offense- Verbal Warning 2nd Offense- Phone Call Home with Teacher Consequence 3rd Offense- Parent Conference with Counselors 4th Offense- Social Worker Interventions 5th Offense- Dean's Referral	Tardy Policy 1st Offense Warning 2nd Offense Parent Contact 3rd Offense Lunch Detention After School Detention After School Campus Beautification Project Star On
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Language Arts 6 Course Expectations

PLEASE PRINT OR DOWNLOAD PAGES 1-5 FOR YOUR REFERENCE.

PLEASE PRINT PAGE 6 AND SEND IT BACK TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR CHILD.

Textbook: Students will be given a textbook to use at school and at home. This consumable textbook contains both texts and exercises that will complement reading assignments given in class. **Each student will be given one consumable textbook per year. Lost or destroyed textbooks can be purchased from the front desk.**

Price to Replace Textbooks: My Perspectives consumable workbook \$20.

Additional smaller texts range from \$5 to \$20 per text

***Students will be given several novels throughout the year. The novels need to be returned in the condition they were given to them. If the novels are damaged or destroyed, the student will be responsible for the fine. All novels can be purchased outside of school for individual student use if the students would like to annotate their copy. We request that the novel fines be paid by the end of the 8th grade year.

Course Description: The foundation for all learning is reading and writing. This English language arts class is designed to complement all disciplines. This course focuses on utilizing vocabulary, thought processes, and strategies to become independent readers and learners.

I. Course goals

- To understand and apply analysis skills and strategies to strengthen vocabulary and increase comprehension
- To utilize the reading process as a foundation for learning
- To understand and apply strategic reading skills to aid comprehension and fluency
- To comprehend, interpret, and evaluate literature (fiction)
- To comprehend, interpret, and evaluate informational text (non-fiction)
- To utilize the writing process to respond clearly and concisely to reading
- To develop the skills to communicate orally
- To apply effective research strategies
- To practice strategic study/learning behaviors
- To build respect and tolerance for diverse ideas by reading a variety of literature and informational text
- To develop the fundamentals of writing as a process
- To practice writing for a variety of purposes and audiences
- To recognize models of quality writing
- To apply principles of standard English usage and agreement in speaking and writing
- To employ the common terminology needed to discuss correct usage, mechanics, and writing style
- To use various types of sentences effectively in order to alter style
- To expand students' knowledge of various literary forms
- To reinforce the students' use of literary terminology
- To read works of literature as a springboard to writing
- To apply students' knowledge of standard English grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling in writing
- To learn digital literacy and digital citizenship
- To learn and practice the skills necessary for group work

II. Course syllabus: The following syllabus provides an umbrella idea that we will be following throughout the year.

- **Unit 1: Childhood**
- **Unit 2: Animal Allies**
- **Unit 3: Modern Technology**
- **Unit 4: Imagination**
- **Unit 5: Exploration**

III. Portfolio: Each student will build an electronic writing portfolio for the year. Students will need to utilize their district Google Accounts to submit their final essays, projects, and some assignments.

IV. Additional Course activities

- Group projects/activities
- Independent reading projects
- Reading and responding to a variety of literary and informational texts
- Research Projects
- Journal writing
- Essays (analytical and narrative styles)
- Individual /group presentations
- A minimum of five quizzes and assessments will be given per quarter

V. Evaluation

a. Criteria for arriving at students' grades

- i. Tests, Quizzes, and Assessments 50 %
- ii. Projects/Reports 30 %
- iii. Classwork /Interactive Notebooks 15 %
- iv. Homework/Participation 5 %

b. Semester Grades

- i. Quarter 1 (45%) +Quarter 2 (45 %)+ Semester Exam (10%)=Semester 1 grade
- ii. Quarter 3 (45%) + Quarter 4 (45 %)+ Semester Exam (10%)=Semester 2 grade
- iii. The final grade for the year will be an average of the grades from semester one and semester two.

c. Explanation of student grades

- i. A 90%-100%
- ii. B 80%-89%
- iii. C 70%-79%
- iv. D 60%-69%
- V. F Below 59%

d. How and when students will be advised of their grades

- i. Parents and students are urged to check the *Infinite Campus* site for current grades.
- ii. Grades will be posted in the classroom by student number several times a quarter.

e. Retaking Tests

Please be advised that tests may only be retaken for Fs or Ds at the teacher's discretion. The highest possible grade on a retake is 75%. Only one retake per test is allowed.

f. Citizenship/Behavior Expectations

- i. Students are expected to be prepared to work. This includes being prepared with homework and all necessary supplies, as well as being prepared to focus on learning.
- ii. Students are to remain focused on their academic tasks in the classroom. Studies show that teachers waste huge amounts of time keeping students on-task when they have to remind students to stop talking, stay in their seats, and complete their assignments.
- iii. Students are expected to treat themselves, others, and SMS property with the utmost respect. Students will speak politely to me, to each other, and to all faculty, staff, and visitors of SMS. The classroom and other areas of campus will remain neat and clean.
- iv. Students are expected to follow all school rules and classroom rules. This includes the dress code. Students must remove outerwear and backpacks and tuck in their shirts before entering the classroom.
- v. Students with any missing assignments will not be able to receive an "outstanding" for citizenship. Students with more than two missing assignments will receive a "needs improvement" for citizenship.

g. Late Work

- i. Homework assignments are always given with a due date. If classwork is not completed, it may be taken home for completion and will be due the next day.
- ii. Homework turned in after the due date for any reason other than an excused absence will lose one letter grade for each day that it is late.
One day late – maximum score = B
Two days late – maximum score = C
Three days late – maximum score = D
Four days or later – maximum score = F
- iii. Each teacher reserves the right to vary the Late Work policy to address individual situations.

h. Make-up Work for Absences

- i. Students are responsible for asking teachers for assignments given during their absence.
- ii. Make-up work can be found in a designated area of the classroom. Requests for make-up work must be done before or after school. Requests for teachers to gather or identify missing assignments cannot be completed during class as this takes away from instructional time for all students.
- iii. CCSD policy states that students have **three** days to complete make-up work for each day of excused absence.

h. Absences/Excused Absence Notes

- i. All absences are to be handled through the attendance office.
- ii. Excused notes must be taken to the attendance office. Students are expected to take the notes to the attendance office before or after school. Students will not be permitted to leave class to turn in absence notes.
- iii. **CCSD policy states that a student with 11 or more unexcused absences in one class period in one semester must be given a grade of F for the semester, regardless of the number or quality of the completed assignments.**

i. Homework and assignments on the Internet Periodically, students may be assigned homework that can only be done on the Internet. Students will be given in time in class to complete such assignments. For students who need additional time, arrangements can be made to use the Internet in the library or in the teacher's room before or after school.

j. Forms There are several permission forms for various programs and activities that we will send home throughout the year. We would appreciate having the forms sent back as soon as possible. **Any student who does not return the permission slip will not be able to take part in the activity until the permission slip is returned.**

k. Emergency School Closure In the event that there is an emergency school closure, teachers will be posting instructions in Google Classroom. If a student does not have access to Google Classroom, how to access non-Internet based materials will be provided at that time. In the event of an emergency school closure, students are asked if possible to check into Google Classroom twice a week to complete an activity.

VI. Course Supplies

a. Composition Book- One-hundred page composition books will be used as a reading journal and as a place for taking notes throughout the course of the year. We anticipate that students will need approximately one composition book a semester for language arts.

b. Loose-Leaf Notebook Paper- Assignments that are to be handed in must be completed on loose-leaf paper unless the assignment sheet states otherwise. No assignments on spiral-edged paper will be accepted, not even perforated spiral paper without the “teeth.” Assignments submitted on spiral paper will be returned and must be redone to receive a grade.

c. Writing Utensils- All assignments that are turned in must be written in blue or black pen or pencil. Students may write in any color pen in their journals

d. Art Supplies (optional). Many activities throughout the year require art supplies--such as colored pencils, crayons, highlighters, and Post-it notes. Students may also bring their own art supplies when appropriate.

e. Highlighters. Highlighters are useful for organizational techniques and taking notes. Each classroom has a classroom set of highlighters, but the best organized students seem to prefer having an individual set.

f. Mechanical pencils—Students who chose to use mechanical pencils should have replacement lead available. Students are wasting precious class time asking classmates for mechanical lead.

g. Earbuds—Students will be required to have a set of earbuds for audio based learning.

**** Many of these supplies can be purchased before or after school or during lunch from either the student store or the librarian.** Students need to come to class prepared with the necessary supplies; they will not be sent out of class to purchase supplies. Teachers may have some limited supplies, but these are frequently purchased with the teacher’s funds rather than supplied by the school district. Students who arrive unprepared will find that doing so affects their participation grade for the day.

VII. Explanation of fees

a. There is no fee for this course.

VIII. Teacher’s hours of availability

a. Teachers are available for conferences before school. Please contact the main office (702-799-4860) to schedule a formal conference or to leave me a message. Phone calls and e-mails will be returned as soon as possible. In general, e-mail is the quickest way to reach a teacher. Please include your child’s name in the subject line.

b. The teacher’s email address will be provided the first day of class and during open house.

6th Grade Language Arts 2020-2021

Class Period _____

Student's Name: _____ Student Number: _____

Student:

__ I have read and understand the school rules listed above.

__ I have read and understand the progressive discipline steps for inappropriate behavior and tardies.

__ I have read and understand the course expectations provided for this course.

Signature of Student

Date

Parent/Guardian:

__ I have read and understand the school rules pertaining to my child.

__ I have read and understand the progressive discipline steps for inappropriate behavior and tardies.

__ I have read and understand what is expected of my child in this course.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

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Visit us at ccsd.net/schools/swainston

