



6th Grade Language Arts and Homeroom

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Welcome to Whiteaker Middle School and the 6th Grade Language Arts block. Middle school lays the foundation for the years ahead and it is my goal to facilitate a smooth transition into 6th grade. Parents, students, and teachers all play an important part of this educational team and I look forward to working with you towards your student's success.

Classroom expectations:

1. Students should respect themselves, classmates, staff members, and guests.
2. Students need to come prepared to class – bring student planner, choice reading book, spiral notebook, binder w/ a section for reading & writing, loose paper, pen and pencil, and any completed assigned homework.
3. Students need to arrive on time and be in their seats ready to learn.

Class Supplies:

✂ A 3-ring binder with Paper with TWO sections – for “Reading” and “Writing” handouts and class work.

✂ Two Spiral Notebooks ✂ Writing tools: Pencils and blue or black pen. No Permanent markers

✂ **We will read a choice book-Everyday.** Students are responsible for bringing a book each day to class. It can be a library book or one from home. We will go to the library as a class regularly. If they need a book before our regular visit, they will need to check one out on their own time.

Class structure: The first part of the block will be flexible grouping designed to accelerate all students in their language arts skills. Students demonstrating a need will receive specialized support to meet their needs. In addition, in order to supplement student learning, we are excited to introduce one aspect called the Moby Max program. This internet-based program provides individualized instruction and practice at the student's level and can be accessed both at school and home, or during after school study hall.

The second part of the block is reading and writing standards based instruction, practice and assessment.

At the end of the year, there is a two-week health unit entitled Healthy Sexuality.

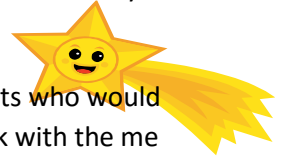
Assignments/ Homework: *Students are expected to read a book of their choice about 20-30 minutes a night or about a minimum of two hours a week.* This time can be broken into shorter segments at first as they build up their reading stamina (ability to read for a sustained period.) Writing homework will be

mainly to complete writing not completed in class. There may be additional homework as well. Every student is provided with a planner and is expected to complete it on a daily basis. Please check your student's for assignments and due dates. Additionally, information on grades, assignments and assessments can be found on Parent/StudentVu. It is a valuable tool to help Monitor your child's progress. Emails on projects, upcoming dates, and other information are also communicated via this avenue.

Absences: If a student is absent, is their responsibility to check in with their teachers the day they return to see what they missed. They may need to come in before school or to an after school study hall.

Extra Help/Study Hall: Most days (Tuesdays-Thursdays) after school for study hall. Students who would like extra help are encouraged to come in after school from 2:45 – 3:30. They should check with the me before hand to see if I'm available as I sometimes have meetings or other after school activities. They can also attend the Wolverine Den, a study hall, open after school to all students.

Grading: Students will receive one grade for their Language Arts block based on the level of proficiency demonstrated on assessments and assignments. Assessments are weighted more heavily and can be taken more than one time. We are here to help students achieve. Students not demonstrating proficiency on a standard, will have the opportunity for additional instruction and practice and can retake an assessment for a higher score.



T.A.G. ~All Students, including Talented and Gifted will have regular assessments to determine level and rate of student learning. Below are some of the differentiated Instructional Strategies used in class to meet needs of all students.

Score	Description of proficiency
A = 3.5 -4.0 87.5% – 100%	Exceeds standard content
B = 2.76 - 3.49 69% - 87.4%	Meets standard content
C = 2.01 – 2.75 50.1% - 68.9%	Nearly meets standard content.
D = 1.51 –2.00 37.7% - 50%	Does not meet standard content.
F = 0 – 1.50 0% - 37.6%	No knowledge of content demonstrated

- Acceleration/Enrichment – materials and instruction at a quicker pace or at a deeper level than standard instruction and materials, as needed.
- Independent Study/Project – Designed to allow student to pursue an area of special interest independently and at his/her own rate.
- Flexible Grouping – Student are grouped together to receive appropriately challenging instruction.
- Learning Styles – Different approaches or ways of thinking, i.e., auditory, tactile kinesthetic, and visual.
- Higher Level/Critical Thinking – Higher order thinking skills to gain understanding of complex problems or ideas.
- Moby Max – Accelerated opportunity for standard specific skills.

Questions, Comments, or Concerns: Please email or call me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to working with you and your child this year.

Sincerely,

Kelly Dougherty

Student: I have read and understand the classroom policies and procedures.

_____ (Date)
 (Student Signature)

Parent/Guardian: I have read and understand the classroom policies and procedures.

_____ (Date)
 (Parent/Guardian Signature)