

6th Grade Language Arts and Homeroom

Kelly Dougherty- Whiteaker Middle School – phone (503) 399-3224

Email: dougherty_kelly@salkeiz.k12.or.us



Welcome to Whiteaker Middle School and the 6th Grade Language Arts block Classes (2 periods – reading & writing). We have an exciting and fun year planned, but I want to share some basic information and policies so that the year can start as smoothly as possible and you are “in the know.”

Creating a safe and successful learning environment is very important. I use a variety of teaching methods and provide learning materials and feedback to encourage students to do well. Your job as a student is to work hard, explore your interests, and have fun. Students will do some work outside of class too, mainly reading, so home support in getting in this practice is important. With all your efforts (in class and homework), we will have a fun and successful year.

Classroom expectations: Students will:

1. Respect themselves, classmates, staff members, and guests.
2. Come prepared to class – bring student planner, choice reading book, spiral notebook, binder w/ a section for reading & writing, loose paper, writing tools, completed assigned homework.
3. Arrive on time to class and come prepared 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 or blue or black pen. No Permanent pens

✂ **A choice book to read-Everyday!!** You 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 you need a book before then, you need to go on your own time. If you come regularly unprepared, your work habits grade may lower.

→ **A diagnostic on reading and writing skills will be administered on all students. Students are significantly below grade level will receive additional support.**

Class structure: The first part of the block will be flexible grouping designed to accelerate all students in their language arts skills. The second part is standards based instruction. In order to supplement student learning, we are excited to introduce 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.

Homework: Time to practice skills students are learning in school is essential for all students in order to improve at anything. Those who practice, improve more at skills. Reading is an essential life skill, and it can be a lot of fun too! Therefore, **students are expected to read a book of their choice about 20-30 min. 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.

Absences: If you are absent, you need to check in with your teachers the day you return to see what you missed and complete the work. Please check to see if you missed notes or handouts as well. It is your responsibility. You 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 me before hand to see if I’m available as I sometimes have meetings or other after school activities. This is a relaxed time for extra help, to use Moby Max, or to read for students who find at-home reading difficult due to distractions or a busy schedule. Snacks are ok.



Grades: A letter grade will reflect progress toward reading and writing standards (skills). Students’ grades will be based on a 4 -point proficiency scale as explained. Two periods will be reflected in one Language Arts grade.

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

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.

- 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.

Quick Overview of Curriculum: During the two periods, we will focus on common core standards in Reading/Literature, and Writing. The first period will be a Reading focus, the second period will be a Writing focus. We will also cover Health curriculum in the late spring, *Healthy Sexuality.

Questions, Comments, or Concerns: Parents and students are encouraged to discuss with me any issues that come up this year. Please feel free to call or email me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

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

(Student Signature)

(Date)

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

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date)