



# Liberty Middle School

281 Dock Murphy Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

## 6th Grade English Language Arts

Mrs. Bess House

<b>Teacher Contact Information</b>	<b>Email:</b> bmhouse@madisoncity.k12.al.us <b>Classroom Phone:</b> 256-430-0001 ext. 83243							
<b>Classroom Digital Platforms</b>	<b>Webpage Link:</b> <a href="https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/1075">https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/1075</a> <b>Schoology Link:</b> <a href="https://madisoncity.schoology.com">https://madisoncity.schoology.com</a> <b>Distribution List Link:</b> See Link Below							
<b>Textbook Information</b>	<p>Various Classroom Novels -These will be used as a primary resource.  <i>McGraw-Hill Reading Wonders</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"> <li>- <i>Restart</i> by Gordon Korman</li> <li>- <i>Towers Falling</i> by Jewell Parker Rhodes</li> <li>- <i>The Cay</i> by Theodore Taylor</li> <li>- <i>Fish in a Tree</i> by Lynda Mulla Hunt</li> <li>- <i>The Giver</i> by Lois Lowery</li> <li>- <i>Holes</i> by Louis Sachar</li> </ul>							
<b>Course Description</b>	<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>							
<b>Course Objectives</b>	<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>							
<b>Course Outline</b>	<p><b>We will cover the following skills this year:</b></p> <p><b>1st Nine Weeks</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="451 1839 1555 1965"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="451 1839 821 1902">Reading</th> <th data-bbox="821 1839 1187 1902">Writing</th> <th data-bbox="1187 1839 1555 1902">Grammar</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="451 1902 821 1965">Review of 5th Grade skills</td> <td data-bbox="821 1902 1187 1965">Elements of CDC Writing</td> <td data-bbox="1187 1902 1555 1965">Capitalization</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Reading	Writing	Grammar	Review of 5th Grade skills	Elements of CDC Writing	Capitalization
Reading	Writing	Grammar						
Review of 5th Grade skills	Elements of CDC Writing	Capitalization						

Types of Conflict Nonfiction Reading Research Skills Elements of Drama		Subjects Verbs
<b>2nd Nine Weeks</b>		
<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Grammar</b>
Theme Point of View Poetry Analysis	Explanatory/Informative Essays	Subject/Verb Agreement
<b>3rd Nine Weeks</b>		
<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Grammar</b>
Point of View Plot/Subplot	Persuasive/ Argumentative Essays	Pronouns
<b>4th Nine Weeks</b>		
<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Grammar</b>
Review of Literary Elements	Narrative Writing	Punctuation
<i>*This is subject to change.</i>		

<b>Classroom Expectations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Be respectful. Respect yourselves, each other, visitors, the teacher, and the room.</li> <li>● Be in your seat and working when the bell rings.</li> <li>● Be silent and listening when someone else is speaking.</li> <li>● Follow directions the first time they are given.</li> <li>● Have all materials, supplies, and homework for class.</li> <li>●</li> </ul>
<b>Progressive Discipline</b> <i>(LMS Policy)</i>	<b>Step 1:</b> Verbal warning <b>Step 2:</b> Student/teacher conference <b>Step 3:</b> Parent contact/conference <b>Step 4:</b> Detention and a parent contact <b>Step 5:</b> Office referral
<b>Grading Policy</b> <i>(MCS Policy)</i>	<b>60%</b> = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects) <b>40%</b> = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation)
<b>Late Work Policy</b>	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. A late work form must be submitted with the late work for work to be graded.
<b>Make-up Work/ Test Policy</b>	<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><b>Technology</b></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 be issued a MCS chromebook in the near future. Until then, students are encouraged to bring their own device (laptop, tablet, mobile device) to access Schoology and Google Drive for class assignments. If students do not have a device, an alternative paper-pencil assignment will be provided.</p>
<p><b>Accomodations</b></p>	<p>Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.</p>
<p><b>Turnitin Notice</b></p>	<p>The majority of writing assignments in this course will be submitted to Turnitin via the Schoology learning platform. The primary focus of this software is to help students become better writers and scholars. Turnitin generates a report on the originality of student writing by comparing it with a database of periodicals, books, online content, student papers, and other published work. This program will help students discern when they are using sources fairly, citing properly, and paraphrasing effectively-skills essential to all academic work.</p> <p>Students will have the opportunity to review their Turnitin originality report and will have the opportunity to make revisions before submitting their work for grading. Once their work is submitted, teachers have the opportunity to view the student's originality report and grade accordingly.</p>
<p><b>Materials &amp; Supplies</b></p>	<p>You can find the LMS School Supply List on the LMS <a href="#">website</a>.</p>
<p><b>Homework</b></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><b>Parent &amp; Student Acknowledgment Form</b></p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Distribution List and Parent/Student Acknowledgment Form</u></a></p>