



Liberty Middle School

281 Dock Murphy Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

6th Grade English Language Arts Mrs. Newell

Teacher Contact Information	Email: msnewell@madisoncity.k12.al.us Classroom Phone: 256-430-0001 ext. 83250							
Classroom Digital Platforms	Webpage Link: https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/2342 Schoology Link: Can be accessed through MCS account							
Textbook Information, Required Texts, and Other Instructional Materials	Various Classroom Novels -These will be used as a primary resource. <i>McGraw Hill StudySync Reading and Writing Companion</i> - This text will be used as a supplemental resource. Students can access this through Schoology. 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. - <i>Fish in a Tree</i> by Lynda Mullay Hunt - <i>Restart</i> by Gordon Korman - <i>A Night Divided</i> by Jennifer Nielsen - <i>The Honest Truth</i> by Dan Gemeinhart (on-level students only) - <i>Clues to the Universe</i> by Christina Li (honors students only) iReady: https://login.i-ready.com/ No Red Ink: https://www.noredink.com/ Common Lit: https://www.commonlit.org/en <i>Parents and guardians can access other supplementary materials through the Schoology platform.</i>							
Course Description	“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)							
Course Objectives	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.							
Course Outline	We will cover the following skills this year: 1st Nine Weeks <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Reading</th><th>Writing</th><th>Grammar</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Review of 5th Grade skills</td><td>Elements of CDC Writing</td><td>Verb Types</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Reading	Writing	Grammar	Review of 5th Grade skills	Elements of CDC Writing	Verb Types
Reading	Writing	Grammar						
Review of 5th Grade skills	Elements of CDC Writing	Verb Types						

	Types of Conflict/Elements of Plot Nonfiction Text Structures	Narrative Writing	Sentence Types Capitalization
	2nd Nine Weeks		
	Reading	Writing	Grammar
	Theme Point of View Research Skills Plot Active Listening	Explanatory/Informative Essays Argumentative Writing	Subject/Verb Agreement Adjectives Adverbs
	3rd Nine Weeks		
	Reading	Writing	Grammar
	Poetry Analysis Figurative Language Conflict/Theme/POV Review	Review Modes of Writing	Pronouns Punctuation
	4th Nine Weeks		
	Reading	Writing	Grammar
	Review of Literary Elements	Text Dependent Writing	Pronouns Review Key Skills
<i>*This is subject to change.</i>			
Classroom Expectations	1. Cell phones must be powered down and in a backpack from 8:15 am - 3:20 pm. 2. Be respectful. Respect yourselves, each other, visitors, the teacher, and the room. 3. Be sitting in your seat and working when the bell rings. Students tardy to class will receive a detention per LMS policy. 4. Be silent and listen when someone else is speaking. 5. Follow directions the first time they are given. 6. Have all materials, supplies, and homework for class. 7. If it is not yours don't touch it. Keep hands and feet to yourself. All students must follow the Madison City Schools Code of Conduct.		
Technology & Cell Phone/Digital Device Procedures	Effective July 1, 2025, the use, operation, or possession of Wireless Communications Devices including but not limited to cellular telephones, tablet computers, laptop computers, pagers, gaming devices, smart watches, earphones or headphones in school buildings or on school grounds during the Instructional Day, is prohibited. Violation of Board policy with respect to such use, operation, or possession of Wireless Communication Devices will constitute a Class II. Madison City Schools has outlined an Electronic/Wireless Device Policy (Policy 6.20) on page 137 of the MCS Policy Manual. Students should bring their MCS chromebooks and chargers to class each day. Teachers monitor student activity and participation; however, students are responsible for their activity on school-issued devices and using their MCS accounts.		
Progressive Discipline	Liberty Middle School Classroom Management Plan: Step 1: Verbal warning Step 2: Student/teacher conference with parent notification Step 3: Parent contact/conference Step 4: Detention Step 5: Referral to administration for repeat Class I violations and initial Class II and Class III offenses (Madison City Schools Code of Conduct)		
Grading Policy (MCS Policy)	60% = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects) 40% = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation)		

Late Work Policy	Late work will be accepted until the end of the instructional unit, with a 10% deduction in points. Any assignments turned in after the final unit test will be accepted, with a 30% deduction. The student must email the teacher upon submitting late work in order to receive credit. No late work will be accepted after the end of the nine weeks.
Make-up Work/Test Policy	Students with excused absences will be allowed to make-up all work within three days of returning to school. It is the student's responsibility to ask for make-up work. Students can get with a classmate or ask the teacher for help. Work that is not made up will become a zero (including quizzes/tests).
Homework	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.
Classroom Library	This year your child will have an opportunity to choose from a variety of books to read. They will not only have access to the school library but also to my classroom library. I have not had the opportunity to read all of the classroom library books. I am asking that you work with me as a team and help monitor and become involved in the books your child is reading. If you would like your child to access my classroom library, no signature is needed. However, if you do not wish for your child to read from my classroom library,
Parent & Student Acknowledgment Form	<i>Please sign that you have received and understand the expectations for my class on Parent Square. If you would like a physical copy of the syllabus, please email me. Thank you!</i>

This syllabus is subject to change.