





Liberty Middle School

281 Dock Murphy Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

6th grade English Language Arts

Mrs. Kimberly Beard

Teacher Contact Information	Email: kcbeard@madisoncity.k12.al.us Classroom Phone: 256-430-0001 ext. 83244
Classroom Digital Platforms	Webpage Link: https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/2278 Schoology Link: https://madisoncity.schoology.com/home#/?k=reztch
Textbook Information	<p>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.</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"> - <i>Restart</i> by Gordon Korman - <i>Towers Falling</i> by Jewell Parker Rhodes - <i>Fish in a Tree</i> by Lynda Mullay Hunt - <i>Holes</i> by Louis Sachar - <i>A Night Divided</i> Jennifer Nielsen
Course Description	<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>
Course Objectives	<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>
Course Outline	<p>1st 9 weeks: Review of 5th grade skills, types of conflict, nonfiction reading, research skills, capitalization, subjects and verbs, CDC writing, narrative writing, <i>Restart</i>, <i>Towers Falling</i> 2nd 9 weeks: elements of drama, theme, point of view, poetry analysis, subject/verb agreement, explanatory/informative writing, <i>Fish in a Tree</i> 3rd 9 weeks: plot, summary, nonfiction reading, persuasive/argumentative writing, pronouns, <i>A Night Divided</i> 4th 9 weeks: review of literary elements, plot/subplot, text-dependent writing, punctuation, <i>Holes</i> <i>*This is subject to change</i></p>
Classroom Expectations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be seated and ready for class/completing bellwork when the bell rings. Students habitually tardy to class will receive a detention per LMS policy. 2. Come prepared for class. Bring all necessary supplies, including homework. 3. Respect your teacher, your classmates, visitors, yourself, and the room. 4. Listen and follow directions the first time they are given. 5. If it’s not yours, don’t touch it. Keep your hands and feet to yourself. If you break something of mine, be prepared to replace it. This also applies to school technology. 6. Follow all school rules.

	7. The teacher dismisses the class, not the bell.
Progressive Discipline (LMS Policy)	<p>Step 1: Verbal warning Step 2: Student/teacher conference Step 3: Parent contact/conference Step 4: Detention and a parent contact Step 5: Office referral</p> <p>Students will have a social contract for my class each 9 weeks to document discipline. This will stay in class and students are responsible for getting it out at the start of class each day. Example is linked here.</p>
Grading Policy (MCS Policy)	<p>60% = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects) 40% = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation)</p>
Late Work Policy	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. You must email the teacher after submitting a late assignment in order to receive credit.
Make-up Work/Test Policy	<p>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). Many times, missed quizzes and tests can be made up during school.</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>
Technology	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. Students should bring their device and charger to school each day. If students do not have a device, an alternative paper-pencil assignment will be provided. Cell phones should be in backpack or phone pocket chart on silent/vibrate. Students using phones without permission during instruction will be asked to put it in the pocket chart.
Materials & Supplies	You can find the LMS School Supply List on the LMS website .
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.
Parent & Student Acknowledgment Form  	<p style="text-align: center;">2023-2024 Mrs. Beard's English Language Arts Signature Form</p> <p>Please Complete the Following with either <u>YES</u> or <u>NO</u> in the blank, then sign below and <u>return by THURSDAY, AUG 10.</u></p> <p>Alternatively, you may complete the google form at this link or by scanning the QR code.</p> <p>_____ I have read and understand Mrs. Beard's classroom policies, procedures, expectations, and syllabus.</p> <p>_____ My child will have internet access daily at home.</p> <p>_____ I have additional comments/concerns about my child. (If so, please list below or email me at kcbeard@madisoncity.k12.al.us)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Student signature: _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Parent signature: _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Today's date: _____</p>

This syllabus is subject to change.