



6th Grade English Language Arts

Expectations and Guidelines

Mrs. Heiss/Mrs. Bice

Welcome to JMS and to 6th Grade English Language Arts! I am Mrs. Heiss and I am excited to have you as a student this year. The following is an overview of the class providing information which will assist you in reaching success throughout the year.

Contact/Website Information

e-mail address: kheiss@scslakeview-k12.com

School phone number: 586 445-4130

Dolphin Team Website (Mrs. Heiss, Mrs. Fury, Mr. Talacko, Mr. Hahn):

jms-6thgrade.weebly.com

This website is a very important source of information. I update this daily with upcoming events, daily agendas, and assignments.

Class Description

This class will follow the curriculum for 6th grade (michigan.gov/mde). We will focus on developing our reading, grammar, and writing skills. Some concepts that we will be covering throughout the year are: literary elements, figurative language, informational text, vocabulary development, and text analysis. In addition, we will be identifying, strengthening, and implementing reading strategies which will also be valuable in all classes across the curriculum. We will be focusing on working through the writing process in the form of narrative, analytical, and comparative writing. We will begin each class with a “Starter Activity” focusing on one or more of the following: reading, grammar, vocabulary, comprehension. At times, these skills will be assessed on Friday with a quiz. To begin our year, we will be preparing for the MEAP by reviewing key concepts and skills and discussing test-taking skills.

Because reading is such a powerful way to gain knowledge, tap into your imagination, and to take you to places you would never experience if not for reading, we will celebrate reading all year long as often as we can. To accomplish many of our reading goals, including developing a true love for reading, it is an expectation in 6th grade ELA for you to read 12 books from a variety of genres. We will be giving out a detailed explanation of this expectation in a few weeks, but the following is a sneak peek at what we will be asking you to read throughout the year:

- 2 Adventure books
- 2 Fantasy books
- 2 Realistic Fiction books
- 2 Historical Fiction books
- 1 Biography
- 1 Nonfiction of your choice
- 2 Free choice books (genre of your choice)

Materials

Each student will be assigned a literature book. This book should be treated with care; it is very expensive to replace. Also, toward the end of the year, we will be reading The Cay. Each student will receive his/her own copy of the book which he/she is expected to treat with care as well. **I would like every student to have a 1-1 ½ inch binder with 5 dividers. This will greatly help with organization which is extremely important for a successful school year.** Each day you are expected to bring:

- A pencil
- Binder
- A book to read
- Literature book when requested
- A positive and successful attitude

Grading

70% Summative (tests, quizzes, projects)

30% Formative (homework and daily assignments)

** Rubrics and/or examples will be provided

Progress Reports

I believe that it is very important for you to be aware of your grade status at all times. Power School, our online grading program, allows for this to occur. This online program may be accessed through Jefferson's website 24 hours a day. Every student has his/her own required password to access the site. Because I have approximately 160 students, it takes a few days to enter assignment grades once they have been turned in, so please be patient. However, I usually enter a "0" for a grade within a day of the assignment due date if it was not turned in on time. On occasion I will hand out a hard copy of the progress reports.

Late Work

Late work will automatically be reduced by 25%. It will be accepted up until the assessment for the topic is administered or the end of the chapter, topic, etc. At this point, any missing assignment will become a permanent 0.

Absent Work

It is a student's responsibility to find out what he/she has missed when an absence occurs. There is an assignment file where missing work may be acquired as well as an assignment board which lists the agenda for each day of the week. Upon return, you should immediately check the file and the agenda board for details of the assignments you have missed. It is also a good idea to monitor the Dolphin website (jms-6thgrade.weebly.com) from home throughout an absence to stay current on assignments if possible.

Extra Help/Learning Needs

Any student needing extra help outside of what is available during class or wishing to discuss his/her learning needs may set up a time during lunch to do so.

Hall Passes

Each student in the 6th grade is given a sheet with 8 passes on it at the start of each quarter. These passes may be used in math, science, language arts, and social studies. Their intended use is for emergencies such as needing to use the restroom or to retrieve forgotten materials. It is your responsibility to immediately write your name on your passes with a pen or marker and keep your passes in a safe place. Unused passes may be turned in at the end of the year for raffle tickets for a special auction/ raffle event.

Behavior Expectations

We will use the STARR Positive Behavior System in my classroom, which is the school-wide behavior system as well. STARR stands for:

Safety – conduct yourself in a manner that promotes safety for yourself and others

Tolerance – be open-minded, flexible, and patient

Achievement – do your personal best at all times

Respect – treat others the way you would like to be treated

Responsibility – be prepared for class by being on time with all expected materials

**** You are expected to be in my room when the bell rings; if you are not, you will be marked tardy. Once the bell rings, you are expected to begin the assigned work.**

I am looking forward to a successful and exciting year with you and your parents/guardians. This can be accomplished by coming to class prepared to learn with a positive attitude, staying organized, staying informed, and seeking clarity when necessary. Again, I welcome you to my class and to JMS and am honored to be your teacher!

Educationally yours,

Mrs. Heiss



6th Grade English Language Arts

Mrs. Heiss

Please return this sheet only by Friday, September 9th.

I have read and understand the expectation sheet for ELA. I am committed to doing my personal best throughout the year.

Student's printed name, signature, and hour of class Hour

I have read over the expectation sheet for ELA with my child and understand what is expected of my child in order for him/her to be successful.

Parent/Guardian signature

****Please share any information you feel I should know about your child that would help me to get to know him/her better. (Concerns, hobbies, interests, points of pride, etc. 😊) Feel free to continue on the back.**