



Mr. Visnosky
6th Grade English Language Arts
Southern Columbia Middle School
2017-2018



To be successful in life, students must be adequately prepared and able to communicate effectively with others. The curriculum for English Language Arts is designed to continue students' exposure to a variety of literary texts with adequate understanding, and to refine grammar skills and improve writing through the writing process. In this course, students will understand that learning is an ACTIVE process. They will participate in class discussions and group work. Students will attempt not to simply memorize, but to learn and to understand material presented to them; they will understand that education is vital to the rest of their lives.

EXPECTATIONS

In addition to all rules and regulations outlined in the student handbook, I wish to add the following:

- Students are expected to come to class each day with their pencil, book, completed homework assignment, binder, and a positive attitude. Your binder needs to be kept up-to-date, neat, and organized. If you damage or lose your binder, you are responsible for buying a new one.
- Students are expected to follow five basic rules:
 1. **Be on time.**
 2. **Be prepared.**
 3. **Be respectful.**
 4. **Follow directions.**
 5. **Do your best.**

MATERIALS

- ☐ 3 ring binder
- ☐ Binder dividers
- ☐ Loose leaf notebook paper
- ☐ Highlighters (3 different colors)
- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Erasers
- ☐ Post-It notes
- ☐ 1 pack of colored pencils

TEXTBOOKS

Students will not be issued their own textbook because classroom sets of textbooks will be provided. Students will be able to access the Literature textbook online from home. Login information will be given in class. If students cannot access the textbook online, they can check out a copy of the text to use at home.

AGENDAS

Each student will be given an agenda. They will write down assignments, homework, due dates, or other information given by the teacher. Each student will be required to bring their agenda to class, and will be held accountable for keeping it up to date and filling out the necessary information each day in class. You are encouraged to ask to see your child's agenda, as it can be used as a form of communication between teacher and parent.

HOMEWORK

Homework is an effective tool in developing responsibility, study habits, and skills. It is an extension of the learning process, and will be purposeful, related to classroom experiences, and age and grade appropriate. In order to receive full credit, assignments must be completed neatly, accurately, and handed in on time. Late assignments will only be worth half credit. After 2 days, the student will earn a 0% on that assignment.

STUDENT ABSENCES

Upon returning to school following an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the teacher to request make-up work. If a student is absent, he/she will have the number of days absent to make up work. For example, if a student is absent for 2 days, then he/she will have two days to make up any assignments. If a student is absent on the day of a test or the day a project is due, then the student is expected to take the test or hand the project in upon returning to school. **It is the student's responsibility to get missing work.**

READING LOGS

The only way for a student to become a better reader is to READ! Therefore, students are required to read at least 100 minutes a week. Students are responsible for keeping a reading log. A parent must initial their child's reading log to obtain credit. Students will be given 10 points a week for reading 100 minutes and having parent signatures.

Metacognitive Logs

Students are also responsible for keeping a metacognitive log. Metacognitive logs help students become more aware of their thinking as readers and give them more control over their learning. They are a place for students to think and write about their own reading process. Students are required to complete 1 entry for every 20 minutes of reading for a total of 5 log entries each week.

ACCELERATED READER

Students must earn 14 AR points a marking period. Points do not carry over. AR tests can only be taken in my classroom or Mrs. Bloom's classroom. The number of AR points earned each marking period will count as **one major test grade** and will follow the grading scale below.

14 pts. = 100%	13 pts. = 97%	12 pts. = 94%	11pts. = 90%	10 pts. = 88%
9 pts. = 85%	8 pts. = 82%	7 pts. = 79%	6 pts. = 76%	5 pts. = 73%
4 pts. = 69%	3 pts. = 64%	2 pts. = 53%	1 pt. = 50%	

GRADING

A student's grade will be determined by quizzes, tests, homework, and class work. Grades are based on total point value of assignments.

PARENT/ TEACHER RELATIONSHIP

I believe that a good parent-teacher relationship is necessary for maximum school success. I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at any time. The following are ways to contact me directly:

- 1) Email: rvisnosky@scasd.us (easiest and quickest way to reach me)
- 2) Call: 356-2331 ext. 3636
- 3) Send a note in with your student

I have read and understand Mr. Visnosky's sixth grade Language Arts syllabus. I agree to follow these rules and expectations.

Student Signature:

Date: _____

Parent Signature:

Date: _____