

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade English Course Expectations**  
**School Phone Number: 799-2260**  
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**I. Course Scope and Goals:**

Course Scope:

This one-year course will develop students' writing, reading, speaking, listening, research and critical thinking skills. Grammar, usage, and mechanics will be taught as essential elements of writing as a process within the Shurley Method of English. Literary and expository texts will be used as models for writing and as a means of developing critical thinking. Instructional practices will incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills the English requirement for sixth-grade students. .

Course Goals:

1. To understand and apply word analysis and strategies to strengthen vocabulary and increase comprehension.
2. To utilize the reading process to understand and apply strategic reading skills to aid comprehension.
3. To develop critical thinking skills when reading a variety of literacy and expository tests from various authors, cultures, and times.
4. To apply the five stages of the writing process: prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing.
5. To write a variety of text that inform, persuade, describe, evaluate, entertain, or tell a story and are appropriate to the audience.
6. To conduct research and write a paper using a given format.
7. To develop and practice effective speaking and listening skills.
8. To develop appropriate study and learning behaviors

**II. Pre-requisite**

The prior language arts teacher approval is required for this course. Consideration will be based on standardized index scores and teacher recommendation. Students must have sixth grade standing and a language stanine score of **5-9**.

**III. Pre-Assessments**

Each student will take a pre-assessment test during the first week of class to determine areas requiring improvement and strengths in alignment with the Clark County School District English 6 Course Syllabus.

**IV. Post-Assessments**

Students will take a syllabus based post-assessment test to determine individual growth in course content, accomplishment of individual growth with regard to performance objectives, strengths and weaknesses of the teaching-learning process in alignment with the Clark County School District English 6 Course Syllabus.

## V. Performance Outcomes

The student will bring to the classroom a base knowledge which will be expanded through increased exposure and continued enrichment, thus allowing the student to achieve a level of mastery equivalent to at least a “3” in accordance with the Analytical Trait Assessment scoring guide (I.O.V.C.), or a score of at least 80%.

## VI. Course Activities

- A. **Testing:** The teacher will administer tests and quizzes throughout the course of study to determine individual student development as well as the effectiveness of teaching strategies / methodologies. Tests will be given daily and bi-weekly. Quizzes can be given *at any time*. A semester exam will be given at the end of each semester. The semester exam will count for 20% of the final semester grade.
- B. **Assignments/Late Work:** Assignments will be given throughout the week in accordance with Bob Miller Middle School’s homework policy. English, reading, and math, will assign 20 minutes of homework, Monday through Thursday. All assignments are **expected** to be in on the day it is due. Students **should not** turn in assignments **late**. If an assignment is turned in after its due date, the grade will be **penalized 10%** for every day it is late. Assignments will only be accepted up to four days following the due date, unless alternative arrangements are made with the teacher. Students are expected to write the proper Bob Miller MS heading on every assignment. If a student **does not** put his/her name on an assignment, the paper will be placed in the "No Name Basket." The “late assignment” criteria will apply. Students are expected to work in class on assignments when time is allowed. Papers are to be neat and legible. Every student is expected to do his/her own work. Any students sharing work will receive a zero, unless it is a cooperative learning assignment.
- C. **Make-Up Work:** (CCSD REG.5113) Teachers shall provide an opportunity for a student to make up missed work due to any absence. Students will be held accountable for the work. After any absence, a secondary student is required to **initiate contact** with the teacher(s) to obtain appropriate make up work within **three school days**. Specific make up work must be completed and returned to the teacher(s) within a reasonable length of time, to be determined by the teacher and communicated to the student/parent or legal guardian. Explanations and/or help are available at the teacher’s scheduled availability times (before and after school), **NOT** during the class period. The make up work must be returned to the teacher(s) by the specified due date if it is to be acknowledged. Students shall be allowed a **minimum of three** days to complete make up work.
- D. **Academic Dishonesty:** If a student is found guilty of academic dishonesty citizenship grade, and notify the parent of the consequence. A second offense of cheating or continued academic dishonesty may result in a notice of required parent conference at which time future consequences will be discussed.
- E. **Homework Policy:** Homework will be given daily (except Friday). Students are expected to complete homework assignments on a daily basis and are responsible for turning them in **on time**.

**F. Across the Curriculum Activities:**

1. Writing Process - Students will put into practice writing techniques, which they have developed in their English class. The teacher will include writing assignments and essay questions on exams. Students are expected to respond both orally and in writing using standard grammar and complete sentences.
2. Technology - Students will be required to complete a minimum of one computer generated report during the year.
3. Learning Strategies - Two-column notes, classifying sentences, vocabulary note cards, graphic organizers, and other strategies will be used extensively.
4. Problem Solving Strategies - Strategies will be employed by students as presented by the teacher.

**VII. Materials - Please replenish school supplies as needed throughout the year.**

Students are required to have the following materials in this class:

- A. School planner
- B. Composition notebook
- C. Loose-leaf paper
- D. 2 blue or black pens
- E. 2 red pens
- F. 2 pencils
- G. 2 highlighters, different colors
- H. Novel to read
- I. Clear slip covers to place **miscellaneous papers** in (1 box)
- J. White-out (correction fluid)
- K. Thesaurus/dictionary for home use
- L. 5 blue dividers in the planner for English:
  - Notes
  - Homework
  - Graded Assignments
  - Spelling
  - Writing

**M. Optional materials:**

1. Box of Kleenex (Thank you in advance for your contribution)
2. Jump drive

**VIII. Evaluation**

A.. Grades will be earned through:

1. Semester Exams - one exam per semester is 20% of the final *semester* grade. A final exam is based on overall comprehension.
2. Tests / Quizzes – 30% of the *quarter* grade
3. Assignments - (including homework) 20% of the *quarter* grade.
4. Journal Notebook/Warm-Up Activities - Students will answer daily prompts, correct D.O.L., or complete analogies in their notebook. This notebook will be graded monthly. (20% of the *quarter* grade)
5. Participation - is a daily concern in the educational process. (10% of the *quarter* grade)
6. Papers: Quarterly projects and final drafts of papers will count for 20% of the *quarter* grade.
7. Extra Credit - may be offered throughout the school year.

B. Letter Grades represent the following percentages:

A = 100% - 90%

B = 89% - 80%

C = 79% - 70%

D = 69% - 60%

F = 59% -

**\*\*GRADE PERCENTAGES WILL NOT BE ROUNDED.\*\***

C. Grade reports will be issued as follows:

1. Grade day reports will be given four times a year, midway through each nine-week reporting period.
2. Quarter grades will be given on a report card four times a year, at the end of each nine-week reporting period.
3. Semester grades will be given twice during the year, at eighteen-week intervals. Semester grades will be a combination of a **semester exam grade (20%)** and grades for the **two quarters (40% each)**.
4. Grades will be updated and posted **weekly** in the classroom by student number. Students need to document their grade in their school planner.  
\*Parents please look at planners weekly, so you are aware of your child's grade or check on the website on page one.

## **IX. Behavioral Expectations**

- A. **Citizenship Grades** - Citizenship grades will be based on a student's ability to follow the classroom procedures. The students are expected to:
1. Raise their hands *before* they speak.
  2. Bring their materials to class *every day*.
  3. Be respectful to *everyone*.
  4. Be in their seat, silent, writing in their journals and planners, *when* the bell rings.
  5. Not chew gum, eat candy, or drink beverages in class.
  6. Have their homework *daily*.

**\*This also includes being prepared for class.**

Infractions of these expectations may result in the **lowering** of a student's **citizenship grade**.

**O (Outstanding)** The student is always prepared for class, actively participates in class activities, shows leadership, self-motivated and is a positive influence on other students.

**S (Satisfactory)** The student is generally prepared for class, frequently participates in class activities and does not infringe on the rights of others.

**N (Needs Improvement)** The student is frequently unprepared for class, needs to participate more, has interfered with other student's learning, and has not followed school/classroom rules.

**U (Unsatisfactory)** The student is habitually unprepared for class, fails to participate in class activities, demonstrates behavior that interferes with other students' learning, and does not follow school and/or classroom rules.

#### **B. Classroom Procedures**

- Come into class silently and turn in any homework assignments that are due.
- Copy the agenda and homework in the planner.
- Complete the daily warm-up/ journal activity
- During class, work independently on assigned work. Exceptions will be made during group work. The last two minutes of class are for gathering all materials and cleaning the room.
- The teacher will dismiss students, ***not*** the bell.

#### **C. Restroom Use**

Students are urged to use the restroom during passing periods. If a student must go to the restroom he/she will sign, date and write the time he/she left the room and returned. If a student has a medical condition, please notify the office.

#### **D. Classroom Consequences** - If rules are violated, the following steps will occur:

1. Sign the citation book, verbal warning
2. Sign the citation book, conference with student
3. Sign the citation book, parent contact
4. Sign the citation book, counselor referral
5. Sign the citation book, dean referral

\***A citation book** is documentation a student completes relating to his/her action that constitutes a consequence. The teacher and the student in the classroom keep this documentation. The citizenship grade will be computed as follows:

- 1-2 citations- O (Outstanding)
- 3-4 citations - S (Satisfactory)
- 5-6 citations- N (Needs Improvement)
- 7 or more citations- U (Unsatisfactory)

#### **E. General Information**

1. Tardies – Students more than a ½ hour tardy will be marked absent. The school tardy policy will be followed for all students that are tardy to class.

- a. 1<sup>st</sup> tardy - Warning from teacher
- b. 2<sup>nd</sup> tardy - Warning from teacher (optional call home)
- c. 3<sup>rd</sup> tardy - Dean's detention
- d. 4<sup>th</sup> tardy - RPC-T (Student's parent will need to come to school to sign the student into school)
- e. 5<sup>th</sup> tardy - 2 Dean's detentions
- f. 6<sup>th</sup> tardy - I.H.S (in house suspension)
- g. 7<sup>th</sup> tardy- RPC-B (Parent must schedule a parent conference with the dean)

- h. 8<sup>th</sup> tardy -2 days of I.H.S.
- i. 9<sup>th</sup> tardy - 3 days of I.H.S.
- j. 10<sup>th</sup> tardy - 1 day suspension for disregard of school rules ( progressive thereafter)

- 2. Students are expected to respect school property and other students' personal property.

AFTER READING THE COURSE EXPECTATIONS, FILL OUT AND SIGN THE ATTACHED SHEET. THIS VERIFIES YOU READ AND RECEIVED A COPY OF THE COURSE EXPECTATIONS. THIS SHEET ALSO GIVES ME THE INFORMATION THAT WOULD BE NECESSARY SHOULD I NEED TO CONTACT YOU DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.

**\*Students place these course expectations in your binder.**

\*\*Please print the information sheet below, write neatly and clearly and turn it in to your teacher.

Thank you!

