

ENGLISH – 6th grade 2007-2008

Students shall increase their reading skills through extensive reading of their personal choice books as well as through group readings of shorter pieces in class. Students shall advance their writing skills through intensive study of the structure of the sentence, the paragraph, and the essay as well as through weekly, free-form journal writing. Oral language will be developed through thoughtful response to group readings. In late spring, the class will present an oral report on a chosen subject.

Core Texts:

Groundwork for Better Vocabulary

Nist/Mohr (Townsend Press, publisher)

Write-In Reader

EMC Paradigm, publisher

Supplementary Texts:

Individual choice books

Grading:

Individual Reading - 25%
personal choice reading rubric

Journal writing – 10%
personal reflections – one - two pages weekly

Daily work/participation – 25%
(skills assignments – 20%)
(being prepared, attentive, and willing to work – 5%)

Quizzes – 40%
weekly/unit vocabulary
weekly language skills

Schedule:

Mon	Tue	Wednesday	Thu	Fri
Sentences	Paragraphs essays	DUE: <u>work assigned WED – MON</u> Vocabulary check Write-In Reader	Voc/skills quiz SSR/ & writing journal check	DUE: <u>work assigned</u> <u>on TUESDAY</u> workshop

No late assignments will be accepted. Students will get one “pass” per quarter for assignments turned in within one week of due date (located on back of *WCS Student Reference Guide*).

Expectations and Policies:

be Polite:

- ✓ be respectful of the needs of others
- ✓ keep cell phones off
- ✓ save personal issues for non-class time
- ✓ abide by school rules

be Prepared:

- ✓ be in class before the bell
- ✓ have with you at all times:
 - personal reading book
 - personal writing journal
 - class textbooks as needed
 - paper and sharpened pencils
 - copy of this syllabus
- ✓ turn in all work by due date; no late work accepted*

Participate:

- ✓ be an active participant in class discussions
- ✓ when you are absent, obtain the information/work you missed
- ✓ utilize workshop time efficiently
- ✓ save bathroom visits for after the first bell
- ✓ do not wear ear phones in class

Please take note : Gaining a solid foundation in English Language skills is especially important for middle school students. Success in all core high school classes hinges on a student's confidence in writing, reading comprehension, and oral expression. I have taken great care to design a course of study that will provide every student with this confidence. I have eliminated all "busy work" that will have anything less than maximum impact on skill development. All the work that I assign is necessary. If a student fails to complete an assignment on time, or if a student fails to bring needed materials to class, I will expect that student's presence in my after-school tutorial. Failure to attend a required tutorial *for any reason* will result in a blue slip and required lunch detention. All classes are important – if a student misses one, it is up to that student to learn what was missed from other students, to check the assignment board, and to pick up any needed materials from me.

