



6th Grade English Language Arts

Expectations and Guidelines

Mrs. Heiss

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

Website : jms-6thgrade.weebly.com

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

If you have questions, concerns, or comments regarding my class, please contact me directly by phone or email.

Class Description

This class will follow the curriculum for 6th grade (michigan.gov/mde and corestandards.org). 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, informative, persuasive, and comparative writing. We will begin each class with a "Starter Activity" focusing on one or more of the following: reading, grammar, vocabulary, comprehension. These skills will be assessed and are expected to be reviewed throughout the week.

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 many books from a variety of genres throughout the year. **You are also required to read 8 books over the course of the year in T2R. It is likely that the book you select for ELA may be read in T2R, and therefore will satisfy requirements for BOTH classes.** 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:

Adventure

Mystery

Biography

Fantasy

Realistic Fiction Historical Fiction Nonfiction

Genre of your choice

Materials

For our reading instruction, we use a literature anthology called *Elements of Literature* as well as other supplemental materials including Scholastic's *SCOPE Magazine* which is an outstanding magazine that provides rich instructional

opportunities. A classroom set of the literature books will be used when needed. 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 6 dividers. This will greatly help with organization which is extremely important for a successful school year.** Each day you are expected to bring:

- At least 2 pencils
- Binder with 6 dividers
- A composition book (These are typically black/white, without a spiral, and smaller than an average notebook.)
- A book to read
- Planner (EXPECTED TO BE WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES THROUGHOUT THE DAY)
- A positive 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 time to enter assignment grades once they have been turned in, so please be patient; allow at least 1 week for grades to be entered. 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. **When checking Power School, keep the following in mind:**

- A "0" entered means the assignment was not turned in when collected.
- A check mark means the assignment has been collected, but not graded yet.
- A blank spot means no action has been taken yet regarding that particular assignment.

At the beginning of each quarter, students will receive a sheet called **Weekly Check-up Sheet**. It will be given on a Monday and is due back by Friday. This sheet must be filled out using PowerSchool. I recommend the student and parent/guardian complete it together. It helps students and parents/guardians remain constantly updated on academic progress. Students receive **1 extra credit point for each week** that the sheet is returned by Friday and receives a stamp by me.

Late Work

Late work will automatically be reduced by 30%. 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. **Please keep in mind that some assignments (i.e. One Pagers) are not accepted late at all. We will follow the guidelines for the school-wide ZAP program for assignments not turned in on time.**

Absent Work

It is a student's responsibility to find out what he/she has missed when an absence occurs. There is an assignment clipboard 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 clipboard and the agenda board for details of the assignments you have missed. Please, do not ask me what you have missed until you have done this first. It is also a good idea to monitor the Dolphin website (jms6thgrade.weebly.com) from home throughout an absence to stay

current on assignments if possible. You are allowed the same number of days you missed to make up any assignments assigned while you were absent.

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 will be issued a planner. Located at the back of the planner are 40 passes (10 for each quarter). In order for your passes to be valid, they must be stamped by a teacher at the beginning 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 planner safe. **New passes will not be issued in the event your planner/passes are lost.** Unused passes may be turned in at the end of the year for raffle tickets for a special 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 and seated 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



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Please return this sheet by Tuesday, September 10th.

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 Student's Signature Hour

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

Parent/Guardian signature Preferred method of contact (email address, cell phone, home phone, etc.)

To assist me in better knowing and understanding your child, please share the following information:

Something my child does well or is proud of is _____

My child's greatest academic strength is _____

With regard to school, my child struggles with or worries about _____

With regard to reading and writing, I would say my child's abilities are: below average average above average

Comments/concerns _____

With regard to middle school, my biggest concern is _____

With regard to middle school, my child's biggest concern is _____

An issue regarding my child/family I would like you to know/understand is _____

Feel free to use the space below and/or the back to elaborate, brag, or share any information that you feel will help me to know your child better.
Thank you! 😊