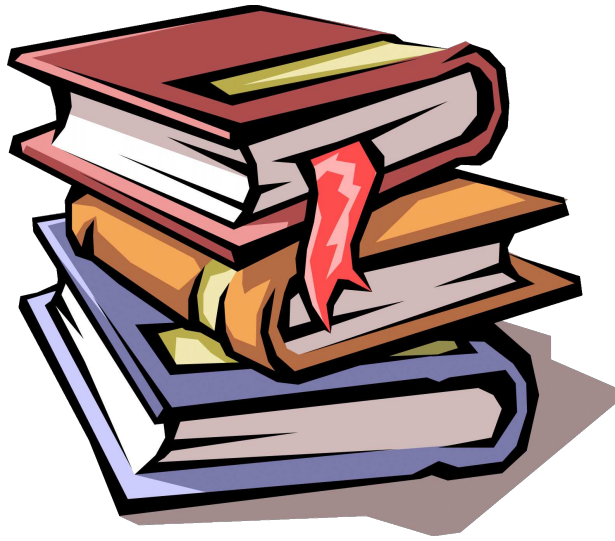


**Welcome to Ms. Prah!'s
6th Grade Advanced Language Arts Class!**



"The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

— Dr. Seuss

Welcome to 6th Grade!!!! I am so excited to have you in my Advanced Language Arts (ALA) class this year. My goal for you in ALA is to develop a love of reading that will last you a lifetime. I will be providing you with the tools to not only develop a love of reading, but to become an *effective* reader. This class is a **safe environment** where every person is treated with **respect**. I do not tolerate disrespect and/or bullying of any kind! My hope is to create a classroom where you can enjoy learning new and challenging concepts. I want you to be comfortable in sharing ideas and working together with your classmates. This class will cover many difficult texts, and I expect you to take an active role in your education. I will provide many tools to help you excel in reading. Please feel free to ask me for help!

DAILY REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- 3-ring binder
- 1 spiral notebook (1 subject) for journaling and notes
- Folder
- Loose leaf paper
- Highlighter
- Pen (black or blue)
- Pencil
- Independent reading book
- Assignment Notebook

OPTIONAL MATERIALS:

- Internet access as we will use GoogleDocs quite often for assignments/homework
- flash drive - saving work to use a school and at home
- 3 x 5 index cards

ABSENCE PROCEDURES:

- If you are absent, it is **your** responsibility to retrieve missed notes and handouts.
- I will deliver missed assignments to the office if a homework request is made. Otherwise, the student is responsible to look in the absent work folder.
- I will post all homework assignments on my website:
<http://staffweb.hawthorn73.org/prahla/>
- You have the number of days missed to make up any homework or class assignments.
- Quizzes and tests will be made up within two days of returning.
- Long-term assignments and projects are assigned well in advance and must be turned in the day you return from an absence or before a known absence.

TARDY PROCEDURE:

I will close the door to the classroom when class is beginning. If you enter after the door is closed, you are tardy. **If you are tardy to class more than 3 times without a pass, you will receive a lunch detention.**

LTR (LEAVING THE ROOM) PROCEDURE:

Each student will need to ask me to leave the room for any reason. This is for YOUR own safety! I must know where the students are at all times in case of an emergency. Because you are now middle school students, I expect you to be responsible enough to know appropriate times to use the bathroom. Students who do leave the room must sign in and out and take the hallway pass. Students are also responsible for anything missed when out of the room.

LATE/MISSING WORK:

- If a student misses an assignment, he or she will need to fill out a late/missing assignment form. This includes assignments that are missed due to absences. The student will be responsible for stapling that form to the assignment and turning the assignment into the correct bin.
- Work that is one day late will receive **half credit**. After that, it becomes a **zero**.
- **10%** will be deducted each day a project is late regardless of the total points of the project.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in my classroom. If a student is being dishonest, he/she will receive a **zero** on that assignment, quiz, test, and/or project. While asking for help is okay, copying someone else's work is unacceptable. Please refer to your assignment notebook for information about academic dishonesty.

WORK THAT IS BELOW EXPECTATIONS:

You need to be your own advocate! If you receive a grade that does not meet my expectations or is below your own expectations, you will need to arrange to meet with me to review and improve the assignment. My goal is to help you **learn** and **succeed**, but only if you are putting forth effort!

I encourage my students to take responsibility and advocate for themselves. Students who have questions or need more explanation about an assignment should arrange to come see me before or after school.

CLASSROOM LIBRARY:

Students are encouraged to look through my classroom library for an independent reading book. I have many books that are at and above grade level. In order to "check-out" a book from my classroom library, you need to fill out the information on the library clipboard. When you are finished reading the book, return it to the "book return" bin in my classroom.

MISCELLANEOUS PROCEDURES:

- You must read all directions before starting an assignment.
- You must write your first and last name with the period number on each assignment to receive FULL credit.
- You must show all work and use complete sentences on any assignment to receive full credit unless otherwise stated.

MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS:

Students will have one book report due each trimester. Students will receive instructions at the beginning of the trimester with a due date. This work will be completed outside of class. Because students are given about two months to complete each book report, late work will be penalized. Each day the report is late, **10%** will be deducted from the total grade.

Students will work with their peers when we read books a class. If a student demonstrates that he/she is not capable of turning in their work on time, they will not have the opportunity to work with other students when it comes time to create projects and give presentations.

PROJECTS:

Students will be assigned various projects throughout the year that will enrich student learning. Checklists and ample time will be given to complete these long-term assignments. Late work will be penalized **10%** daily.

HOMEWORK:

Daily homework will be graded on effort, completion, and understanding of the task at hand. If you are having trouble with a homework assignment, please have your parent/guardian email me and then set up a time before or after school to go over the assignment with me. Students are responsible for making corrections and asking questions when going over homework.

GRADING SYSTEM:

All assignments will be graded on a points system. The points assigned will vary and be determined by the number of questions, rubric, and/or intensity of the individual assignment.

Grading Scale:

A+: 100%	A: 93%-99%	A-: 90%-92%
B+: 88%-89%	B: 83%-87%	B-: 80%-82%
C+: 78%-79%	C: 73%-77%	C-: 70%-72%
D+: 68%-69%	D: 63%-67%	D-: 60%-62%
	F: 59% or below	

EFFORT AND PARTICIPATION:

Effort and participation will both be considered in a student's final class grade.

• Effective Effort:

- **Time** - You put in enough minute and hours to get the job done and understand how much time is required for quality work.
- **Focus** - Your work time should be efficient and lacking in distraction.
- **Resourcefulness** - You are willing to reach out for help.
- **Strategies** - You know and use appropriate strategies to handle tasks.
- **Use of Feedback** - You listen to and look carefully at feedback you receive from teachers and peers and use it to improve your work.
- **Commitment** - You are dedicated to the task at hand.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

The best way to reach me is by email: prahla@hawthorn73.org

You can also call me through my school phone number, though it will direct you straight to my voicemail during the day: 847.990.4196

HOW TO SUCCEED IN ALA CLASS:

- Turn in homework *on time* to receive full credit.
- Bring all required materials to class and fill out your assignment notebook **DAILY!**
- Use rubrics to ensure all parts of each assignment are completed correctly.
- Do not procrastinate.
- Always try your best.
- Come to class each day ready to learn with a **POSITIVE ATTITUDE!**
- Communicate with me as early as possible. Don't wait until the second an assignment is due to tell me you didn't understand what was expected. We are here to work together!

Name _____

Student Questionnaire

1. Name one of your strengths in Language Arts class and tell my why.

2. What would you like to improve on in Language Arts class? Check all that apply.

Reading Comprehension		Using Evidence for Support	
Vocabulary		Drawing Conclusions	
Reading Fluency		Making Predictions	
Annotating a Text		Figurative Language	
Analyzing a Text		Making Inferences	
Analyzing Characters		Loving Reading	

3. List one goal you have for Language Arts class this school year.

4. Tell me about your past experiences with Language Arts class.

5. How can I help you enjoy Language Arts class?

6. What are some of your hobbies, interests, and extracurricular activities

7. If you know, what would be your ideal career and why?

I have read the packet of information and also filled out the questionnaire to the best of my ability. I understand the expectations and procedures for this class.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____