



Language Arts -6th Grade

Teacher: Mrs. Christina O'Donald **School Phone:** 817-299-2700
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Conf. Time: 1:30 - 2:42 PM

Course and Curriculum Information: English Language Arts/Reading courses in grades 5-12 will focus on continuing the development of skills taught in the elementary grades. These include the following five strands: Reading, Writing, Oral and Written Conventions, Research, and Listening and Speaking. Please go to www.mansfieldisd.org then click on Departments, Curriculum, and Language Arts for a full scope and sequence.

Materials: Students will use a variety of texts including, but not limited to, a literature textbook (Pearson) and novels selected from the district approved reading list. Pre-AP students will also use the Pearson literature textbook for advanced studies.

Classwork and Homework: Students will have opportunities to complete work in class but will also have homework from time to time. Class participation and involvement is encouraged to facilitate a positive learning environment for each student.

Reading Expectations: Students will be expected to read 40 books independently this year. Students will have free choice of books from a variety of assigned genres. Students will be monitored throughout each six weeks and earn a grade for their independent reading.

Reports and Projects: Teachers will also require various reports and projects throughout the year. Deadlines and requirements for these assignments will be sent home to parents in advance of due dates.

iStation: iStation is a computer-based reading comprehension and fluency building program used by Mansfield ISD at the intermediate level. Students assessed at the beginning, middle and end of the year to evaluate their reading progress.

Assessment Calendar: Students will take quizzes and tests in class throughout the year to show mastery of material presented. These assessments will be given at the teacher's discretion with advance notice to students in most cases. Students will keep track of assignments and due dates in their student planners. **Students will also take the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) for Reading on May 13, 2020.**

Grading Policies: These policies are addressed in the student handbook. Please review them and contact your child's campus or teacher for clarification as needed.

Weighting of Grades: Grades in Language Arts are weighted according to the following scale:

Daily Work/Quizzes: 50%
CBAs/Tests/Projects: 40%
Homework: 10%

UIL Eligibility (No Pass/No Play): "We Care Too Much About You to Let You Fail!" Any student that has below a 70 in any class WILL NOT participate in Recess or Fun Friday. Students will stay in an assigned teacher's room the entire time to complete any assignments. Students who are not passing will also not be able to participate in club competitions, track meets, basketball tournaments, school socials, et

*See MISD Board Policy FM (LOCAL)-Exempt Courses.

Late Work Policy: For work submitted after the due date given in class, the following policy will apply:

- → 1 class day late: grade may be reduced up to a maximum of 10 points
- → 2 class days late: grade may be reduced up to a maximum of 20 points
- → 3 class days late: grade may be reduced up to 30 points (or teacher discretion)
- → Late work will not be accepted after 3 class days.

Retake Policy: Students who fail a major test/assessment (below 70%) will be allowed to retake or correct up to a 70% grade. Students will have to make arrangements with the teacher to retake or correct a major test/assessment. Students have one week after tests/assessments are returned to do retakes or corrections. Students are encouraged to attend tutorials.

Tardies, Absences, & Missed Work: Students are encouraged to be responsible for collecting work from each teacher after an absence. Students have one extra day for each day they were absent to complete a missed assignment. Arrangements for taking a missed test or quiz must be made with the teacher.

Academic Dishonesty: These policies are addressed in the Student Handbook. Please review them and contact your child's campus or teacher for clarification as needed.

Resources:

Parents - Parents are encouraged to set up an account on Skyward, the district's grade reporting site. Grades are updated weekly by teachers. This portal enables parents to monitor their own students' grades during the school year. You may obtain your login/password from the school registrar or secretary. Then go to www.mansfieldisd.org and click on the Skyward icon. Follow directions for setting up a parent account.

Students - Tutoring, enrichment classes, library resources, and monitored internet research will be available to students. Before or after school help may be available by advance appointment. Check with the teacher about these options.