

Maltby Intermediate School



Course Title: 6th Grade Language Arts & Social Studies

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Course Description:

The 6th grade Language Arts class is designed to promote skill development in the area of reading, writing, word study, grammar, speaking & listening. **Reading** instruction will be delivered using the Teacher's College Reading and Writing Units of Study workshop model and will include individualized guided reading practice. In the area of reading students will study many different genres, both fiction and nonfiction, including action/adventure, fantasy, folklore, poetry, and literary nonfiction. Included with the study of each of these genres, students will engage in literary discussions about a variety of ideas including the comparing and contrasting of ideas, theme, characterization, plot, point of view, dialogue, and suspense.

Writing instruction will also be delivered using the TCRWP Units of Study workshop model, and will involve using the steps of the writing process to produce a variety of types of writing, including personal narratives, comparative essays, literary essays, and research projects. Grammar and writing skills will be developed through lessons designed to encourage the use of the "6 + 1 Traits of Writing". These traits are ideas, organization, word choice, conventions, sentence fluency, voice, and presentation. Finally, in the area of word study, students will study many of the common classic Greek and Latin roots and will learn to recognize their use in the English language.

The 6th grade **Social Studies** curriculum introduces students to the cultures of the Western World. Emphasis is placed on the contemporary geography of North America, South America, Europe, and Russia with a look at Australia/Oceania. In addition to the study of geography, students will explore cultural and natural features that characterize each region; trace movement of people, ideas and products within the regions; study the differences in governments and economies of each region; and study global issues. Historical background is provided to enable students to understand how these regions developed from the past to the present. Current Events will also be discussed periodically through Scholastic News Magazines and the use of various media.

Class Expectations:

Class work will include reading exercises, writing exercises, group and independent problem solving activities, mapping labs, and special projects requiring demonstration of learning targets and standards. Summative as well as formative quizzes, tests, and projects will be administered periodically to assess student comprehension. Students will be allowed to retake or resubmit assessment scores to demonstrate new learning within the current marking period. Homework will be given to supplement and enhance in-class discussion that may include worksheets, skills practice, writing, and reading assignments. Students are required to do independent reading of novels outside of those covered in class. It is expected that students will read at least 20-30 minutes a day five days a week outside of school.

Grading Policy:

Final grades for Reading, Writing and Social Studies will be determined by a combination of test and quiz scores, class work, homework, and projects. The final grade will be determined using the following weighted categories:

Assessments/Performance Tasks	75%
<i>(e.g. tests, quizzes, projects, presentations, writing unit final drafts, Accelerated Reader/Independent Reading)</i>	
Practice/Formative Tasks	25%
<i>(e.g. daily warm-ups, rough drafts, prewriting exercises, word study exercises, notebook exercises, mapping labs, formative homework & classwork)</i>	

Late Work:

Students are expected to come to class prepared. Late assignments will be accepted for full credit if turned in any time before the end of a marking period. However, students may experience consequences unrelated to grade penalization, such as signing the DOGS binder and loss of recess or classroom Pride rewards, until all assignments are turned in. Also, students must have turned in all work related to a unit of study before requesting to retake or resubmit the assessment. Students and parents may track progress through MiStar [ParentConnect](#), or request a written progress report at any time through the school counselors.

Enrichment:

Enrichment assignments will be offered periodically in the form worksheets, activities, speeches or projects. These assignments will be explained and deadlines announced as we come to the appropriate area of study. Students who have demonstrated mastery of the current learning targets will be encouraged to take advantage of the added challenge of this work. These assignments will be graded and averaged into a student's grade exactly as any other classroom assignment.

Extra Credit:

Periodic extra credit assignments will be available to students wishing to make up for points lost due to uncredited or incomplete assignments. Extra credit may not be used to improve a student's final marking period grade more than 1/3 a letter grade.

Make-up Work:

Students are responsible for obtaining work missed during an absence. Any assignments collected or assigned will be posted on the classroom planner. Students may also reference the homework/assignment calendar on the website. Students with an excused absence will have the number of days they were absent plus one to turn in any missed work.

Extra Help:

I will be available for extra help during most lunch periods, and before or after school by appointment. Students are encouraged to speak up and ask for help if they feel they are struggling in any area of the course.

Citizenship:

A positive and respectful attitude is required of all students. Active participation is expected in all class discussions and group work. Students are expected to be prepared, prompt, courteous, and considerate. A student's academic enhancement grades on the report card will be determined by their demonstration of these requirements. We will use develop classroom norms and support the Maltby DOGS system to promote and reward positive behaviors.