



Ralph J. Bunche Middle School: Language & Literature Course Syllabus

Grades 6-8 | 2026-2027 School Year

Use the grade columns to compare grade-specific information. Sections labeled "Applies to All Grades" cover every Language & Literature student.

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	
COURSE OVERVIEW Grade-specific course descriptions			
English Language Arts (ELA) The English/Language Arts curriculum addresses Georgia's 6th Grade English Language Arts Standards. HMH ELA's pedagogy and daily lesson patterns help teachers and students meet higher standards in reading, writing, vocabulary, and grammar. Lessons support students' academic, social, and emotional growth while developing the essential skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening to form a literate community. The curriculum and instructional methods prepare students for district benchmarks, state assessments, and the Georgia Milestones Assessment. This is a year-long course.	Language and Literature The English/Language Arts curriculum addresses Georgia's 7th Grade English Language Arts Standards. HMH ELA's pedagogy and daily lesson patterns help teachers and students meet higher standards in reading, writing, vocabulary, and grammar. Lessons support students' academic, social, and emotional growth while developing the essential skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening to form a literate community. The curriculum and instructional methods prepare students for district benchmarks, state assessments, and the Georgia Milestones Assessment. This is a year-long course.	English Language Arts (ELA) The English/Language Arts curriculum addresses Georgia's 8th Grade English Language Arts Standards. HMH ELA's pedagogy and daily lesson patterns help teachers and students meet higher standards in reading, writing, vocabulary, and grammar. Lessons support students' academic, social, and emotional growth while developing the essential skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening to form a literate community. The curriculum and instructional methods prepare students for district benchmarks, state assessments, and the Georgia Milestones Assessment. This is a year-long course.	
TEACHER DIRECTORY Grade-specific contacts			
6th Grade Teachers Bridgitte Sims Room 2222 bbsims@apsk12.org Ronnisha Clinkscales Room 2216 Ronnisha.clinkscales@apsk12.org Summer Bullock Room 2238 Summer.bullock@atlanta.k12.ga.us Jessica McLaughlin Jessica.Mclaughli@atlanta.k12.ga.us	7th Grade Teachers Erica Landrum Room 1214 Elandrum@apsk12.org Shayla Willis-Tenny Room 1224 shwillis@atlanta.k12.ga.us Tracy Frederick Room 1216 Tracy.Frederick1@atlanta.k12.ga.us Keyairal Ransom Room 1220 Keyairal.Ransom@atlanta.k12.ga.us Jessica McLaughlin Jessica.Mclaughli@atlanta.k12.ga.us	8th Grade Teachers Carol Austin Room 1248 Carol.Austin@atlanta.k12.ga.us Rhonda Robinson Room 1236 Rhonda.Robinson@atlanta.k12.ga.us Calvianni Hopewell Room 1242 Calvianni.hopewel@atlanta.k12.ga.us Jessica McLaughlin Jessica.Mclaughli@atlanta.k12.ga.us	
BUNCHE MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS Applies to All Grades			
B.O.S.S.			
B - Be Responsible	O - Take Ownership	S - Show Respect	S - Be Safe

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
COURSE CONTENT STANDARDS & CURRICULUM <i>Applies to All Grades</i>		
New Georgia Standards: Georgia ELA Standards HMH Curriculum: HMH Family & Caregiver Resources		

6th Grade

7th Grade

8th Grade

REQUIRED MATERIALS | Grade-specific lists

- 1 - 2-inch Clear View 3-Ring Binder with Clear Inside Pockets
- 2 - Spiral Notebooks
- 2 – Plastic 3 Prong Pocket Folders
- 7 - Binder Dividers
- 1 - Clear binder pencil pouch (3-hole punched)
- 1 - Pack of Loose-Leaf Notebook Paper
- 3 - Composition Notebooks
- Glue Sticks
- Highlighters
- Markers
- Pencils
- Pens

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COURSE OUTLINE | Grade-specific units

Unit 1: The Courage to Speak

Unit 2: Overcoming the Unpredictable

Unit 3: Shared Truths

Unit 5: The Art of Persuasion

Unit 6: Putting it All Together

Unit 1: Reality Check

Unit 2: Take Control

Unit 3: Change Agents

Unit 4: Game On

Unit 1: Persuasion in a Digital World

Unit 2: Gadgets and Glitches

Unit 3: The Thrill of Horror

Unit 5: Finding Your Path

EVALUATION & GRADING | Applies to All Grades

Course Component	Weight	Grading Scale	Mark
Classwork	30%	100-90	A
Homework	5%	89-80	B
Quizzes	20%	79-70	C
Common Assessments (Unit Tests/Bi-Weekly)	25%	69-0	F
Projects (including GRASP Tasks/One Fair)	20%	Missing Assignment	M
TOTAL	100%		

COMMUNICATION | Applies to All Grades

Conferences: Parent conferences are held on the second Tuesday of each month from 4:45-5:45. One-on-one conferences may be scheduled with an individual teacher by texting or emailing.

HOMEWORK POLICY & ASSIGNMENTS | Grade-specific language

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Teachers will assign homework that extends and applies to the lesson of the regular school day. Homework will be assigned Monday and due at the end of the week or given daily (teacher choice). Homework helps students practice and prepare for success in class.	Teachers will assign homework that extends and applies to the lesson of the regular school day. Homework will be assigned Monday and due at the end of the week or given daily (teacher choice). Homework will be graded; there is no exception.	Teachers will assign homework that extends and applies to the lesson of the regular school day. Homework will be assigned Monday and due at the end of the week or given daily (teacher choice). Homework helps students practice and prepare for success in class.

LATE OR MISSING ASSIGNMENTS | *Applies to All Grades*

Late Assignments: Students are responsible for meeting established due dates. Work submitted after the teacher has collected the assignment is late. The highest grade a student may earn is 75%. This does not apply to students who are absent. Late assignments are due before each progress report (at the end of the 9 weeks) or report card (semester grade).

Make-Up and Missing Assignments: Students who are absent, suspended, or assigned in-school suspension are expected to retrieve their make-up or missed assignments from their teachers when they return. Students are responsible for asking about assignments. Students will receive an "M" until missing work is submitted. Students have five days to turn in the work; after five days, it is late. Make-up or missing assignments are due before each progress report (at the end of the 9 weeks) or report card (semester grade).

CAMPUS PORTAL FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS | *Applies to All Grades*

Parents can access class schedules, attendance records, and grades through Campus Portal for Parents (CPP), an easy-to-use, secure communications tool. CPP also allows parents to verify household information, including email address, home address, and telephone numbers. [Open Campus Portal.](#)

To activate your account, [visit the APS account activation page.](#)

To reset your password, call the APS Help Desk at (404) 802-1000. The parent or guardian will need the child's username to reset the account.

ACADEMIC PROGRESS & SUPPORT | *Applies to All Grades*

Mastery Learning: A unit of material is taught and student understanding is evaluated before students move to the next unit. Students who have not demonstrated mastery will receive feedback and support, which may include practice exercises, study guides, group work, or complementary resources. Students who demonstrate mastery may receive enrichment exercises such as special projects, tasks, or academic games to deepen or broaden their knowledge.

Progress Reports: Teacher-issued progress reports and deficiency notices will be distributed. The counseling department will issue progress reports on the last Tuesday of each month. Parents and guardians will be informed when students are making unsatisfactory progress. Poor performance will be reported as soon as problems are evident. Deficiency reports with remediation plans will be issued between progress reports, and parent or guardian conferences will be scheduled. Unsatisfactory grades should never come as a surprise to parents, guardians, or students.

- Teachers will contact parents and guardians early in the semester if academic, attendance, or behavioral difficulties are apparent.
- Teachers will notify the counselor, SST/RTI Coordinator, and assistant principal of serious problems affecting classroom performance.

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS | *Applies to All Grades*

If you have questions or concerns about your child, please contact the appropriate teacher using the teacher directory in this document.

*Professionally,
6th-8th Grade Language & Literature Educators*

PARENT/GUARDIAN ACKNOWLEDGMENT | *Complete and return to a Language & Literature teacher*

I acknowledge that I have read and agree with the terms of this syllabus for the student(s) listed below.

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Student Name: _____ Teacher: _____ Period: _____	Student Name: _____ Teacher: _____ Period: _____	Student Name: _____ Teacher: _____ Period: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____