**Advanced Language Arts 6**



Advanced Language Arts 6

Students are recommended for Advanced Language Arts 6, based on reading scores and a writing sample. Students read more complex narrative and informational text and analyze their structure, elements, and style. Vocabulary strategies are taught and reinforced through a variety of literature. Using the writing process, students write narrative and expository pieces, such as a personal narrative and the argumentative essay. Because students have a foundation in the mechanics of writing, more time is spent on developing longer, more analytical essays. Students develop speaking and listening skills by participating in group discussions and oral presentations. (Students will be considered for ALA 6 based on assessment scores.)

Stay Informed:

Accessing Weebly Web Page:

[www.rochester.k12.mi.us](http://www.rochester.k12.mi.us)

**Click on ‘Schools’-‘Middle Schools’-‘West’**

**Click on “School Menu’-‘Classroom News’-‘Lovalvo’**

**Click on ‘Weebly’ link:**

*Languageartslovalvo7weebly.com*

Accessing Holt McDougal Textbook:

**http://my.hrw.com**

**Username: first initial + beginning 5 characters of last name + 4 digits of student ID + ‘h’ *(example: jsmith1234h)***

**Password: holtstudents**

Curriculum Common Core Standards site:

[http://www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov/documents)

A W.I.S.E. Warrior…

FAQ

**What if I'm absent? Check the class website for daily assignments. Upon your return, pickup any missed handouts located in the classroom. You may always request your homework by email. All homework requests can be picked up in the office.**

**Can I turn in late homework? Assignments not completed on time will be recorded as missing and hold a 50% value. Once the assignment is turned in and graded, the missing assignment will be replaced with the value earned.**

What supplies do I need for Language Arts?

**-One 1” Binder**

**-A pack of 5 pocket dividers**

**-One durable 2 Pocket Folder**

**-Multiple Pencils/Pens/Highlighters/Coloring Supplies/Glue Sticks**

**-One composition Book**

Classroom Donations Needed*(****Please and Thank You!****)***:**

**Kleenex**, **Clorox Wipes, Hand Sanitizer, Highlighters,**

**Lined-Paper, Glue Sticks, Pencils**

# [http://www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov/documents)

**Expresses a Positive Attitude**

**Includes Everyone**

**Works Hard**

**Shows up Prepared**

GRADES

**It is the students’ responsibility to check their grades regularly using the district website. Staying informed of their current course grade encourages individual ownership of a positive academic standing.**

**The goal is for all students to master the 6th grade language arts skills. Therefore, students will be provided with opportunities to redo assignments in order to prove mastery when appropriate.**

BINDER

**Since organization is an important element of academic success, the students will be required to maintain a binder containing their language arts assignments throughout the year. Students should expect occasional binder checks.**

NOVELS

Identified below are the literature selections that may be used during this course:

**The False Prince by Jennifer Nielson** In a discontent kingdom, civil war is brewing. To unify the divided people, Conner, a nobleman of the court, devises a cunning plan to find an impersonator of the king’s long-lost son and install him as a puppet prince. Four orphans are recruited to compete for the role, including a defiant boy named Sage. Sage knows that Conner’s motives are more than questionable, yet his life balances on a sword’s point — he must be chosen to play the prince or he will certainly be killed.

**Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz** **Ryan** Esperanza Ortega possesses all the treasures a girl could want: dresses; a home filled with servants in Mexico; and the promise of one day presiding over El Rancho de las Rosas. But a tragedy shatters that dream, forcing Esperanza and her mother to flee to Arvin, California and settle in a farm camp. There, they confront the challenges of work, acceptance, and economic difficulties brought on by the Great Depression.

**The Princess Bride by William Goldman-** The Princess Bride is a story about a young farm girl named Buttercup, who falls in love with a farm boy, Westley, who decides to leave his life on the farm to build a life for them.  When pirates attack his ship everyone assumes there are no survivors. Years later Buttercup agrees to marry the Prince, heir to the throne of Florin, even though she does not love him. The Prince plans to have Buttercup kidnapped and killed, but the heist is foiled by a mysterious man dressed in black.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS FOR VIEWING

Throughout the year, students will view a few videos that enhance the literary genres studied in class.  Viewing is a part of the State of Michigan’s Grade Level Content Expectations. The following videos complement our study of genres and will be **considered** for viewing:

*Hoot, Tangled, Enchanted, A Series of Unfortunate Events, Trolls, Inside Out, Tuck Everlasting, Bridge to Terabithia, Ferngully, Hoodwinked, American Legands, Eragon, Princess Bride, Anastasia, The Watson's Go to Birmingham, How to Train Your Dragon, McFarland USA, The Lorax, The Lion King, Flipped, Boy Meets World, Big Hero 6, My Friend Martin, Soul Surfer*

READING CHALLENGE

**One of the pillars of our class this year is the Reading Challenge. This is derived from the successful work of Donalyn Miller, an educator from Texas and author of *The Book Whisperer* and *Reading in the Wild.*This challenge asks each child to commit an honest effort to completing a targeted number of books over the course of the school year, and more importantly, to always have a book that they are excited to read!  In class, we will be working to incorporate this challenge in two big ways:**

1. STUDENT SELECTED NOVELS

**Research shows that when students are given the freedom to choose their own reading material, they are likely to be more engaged, and their effort and motivation is increased. This results in increased learning and a strong commitment to reading. We are using this opportunity to inject student choice into the curriculum.  For our units, we will still be using a model text to teach each specific skill; however, our students will practice those skills through the novels that they have selected - novels which they are excited to discuss, share and write about.  Additionally, we will be working to weave this into other areas of the curriculum.  Each day, our students are “face-to-face” with professional writers.  We view this as a great opportunity to study how these writers use our language.  Because of this opportunity, some of our grammar and vocabulary study will also draw from student selected novels.**

1. BUILDING COMMUNITY

**Among the most important elements of a successful classroom is a strong community.  One way that we build this in language arts is through our community of readers.  Students are invited to share their favorite reading moments, not only through class discussion, but also through an invitation to get up and write on the walls.  This invitation helps students share great books, exciting and moving moments in their reading, and new words that they discover with all of their peers across all hours of the day. It is important to us to not only build a community of readers at school but also at home, so that they can see the importance of reading in their daily lives. We would like to invite you and your family to join us in the challenge!**

3 STEPS TO TAKE WITH A GRADE CONCERN

1. **Check your grade online**

Check your grade online. Review each assignment grade and comments entered by the teacher.

1. **Talk to your child**

Ask your child see his/her language arts binder so that you can review his/her assignments together. Take note of the corrections and notes written on each assignment.

1. **Student initiative**

If questions remain, please have your child see me in person. I will be happy to go through his/her grade and make suggestions for improvement.

The move from fifth grade to sixth grade can be challenging. I am happy to work with your child through this transition period so that he/she can be academically successful in sixth grade.

-------------------Please cut and return to your language arts teacher ----------------------

We have read and discussed the information in the syllabus

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hour: \_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Please provide an email where you would like to receive classroom updates.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email address

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email address