

Course Expectations & Behavior Norms
6th Grade English Language Arts
Ms. Ridgeway & msridgeway.weebly.com



Course of Study

Incorporating the Common Core Standards and Balanced Literacy approaches, we will utilize a variety of texts and language arts textbooks in class as we are piloting new materials for the district. Students will receive direct instruction in **reading comprehension strategies, writing, grammar, Academic Vocabulary, spelling, and Greek & Latin Roots**. By the end of middle school, students should be reading one million words each year. This is achieved by reading 30 minutes daily at home.

Required Supplies *(bring daily)*

- **Charged iPad, earbuds**
- **3-ring binder* (2-3 inches wide) with dividers & paper**
- **Benton Student Planner**
- **2 sharpened pencils****
- **red pen**
- **black or blue pen**
- **highlighter**
- **Post-its 3"x3"**
- **Scissors**
- **Glue stick and/or tape**

** I do not recommend zipper binders or folders for organization*

*** No mechanical pencils, please*

Guidelines for Success:

- **Be Kind**
- **Be Safe**
- **Be Respectful**
 - Of yourself
 - Of others
 - Of school property
 - Of Learning and Knowledge
- **Be A Scholar!**
 - Bring all materials to class each day.
 - Materials include binders, sharpened pencils, books, homework/projects, and notebook paper.
 - Be in your seat ready to learn when the bell rings.

Grading

My attitude towards grades is: A, B, or "C" me after school for help!

Semester grades are based on a combination of test and quiz scores, projects, class work, and homework. Standard letter grades are used, and the weighting of grades is as follows, though it may be adjusted during the year:

Class work 25%

Homework 20%

Tests & Projects 35%

Quizzes 20%

1:1 Technology

This is a new venture for both students and the teacher! I will be making every effort to go "paperless". I will try to post all work into Schoology, and you will turn in most assignments through Schoology. Currently, I maintain a webpage where assignments are posted, but that may change as the year progresses. Please charge up your iPad every night, and bring it to school every day. You'll also need a pair of ear buds to listen to audio files on your iPad.

Homework

Homework is practice and review of what we are learning in class. Expect homework daily; regular homework will consist of a weekly Reading Log, a weekend Making Words activity, and a monthly book report project. All assignments are posted on the school website, and students are expected to complete all homework on time. Failure to do so will negatively impact grades.

Assignment Requirements:

Most assignments will be submitted electronically through Schoology or google docs. But when submitting assignments on paper, follow these guidelines:

1. Use regular sized notebook paper. Holes should be on the left side. Do not tear the holes, and if torn out of a spiral notebook, please trim the edges with scissors.
2. Write with a regular pencil, or black/blue pen as appropriate.
3. First & Last Name, Date, Class Name & Period must be written in the upper right hand corner of all papers.
4. Leave a 1-inch margin along the left and right sides of the paper.
5. Use your best writing and keep all papers neat and clean.
6. Assignments are usually turned in to the "homework basket"; occasionally I may collect them from you. NEVER place any assignments, work, or notes on my desk.

Behavior

It is my goal to foster and nurture **scholarly behavior** in all my students and to provide a learning environment where all students can be successful and learn. I expect all students to do their part in contributing positively to this environment by showing respect for themselves and others, demonstrating responsibility, observing classroom rules, and by

Should students fail to exhibit scholarly behavior, I will conference with the student to redirect the behavior; if it persists, I may require the student to reflect upon their behavior in the form of an essay to be written at home or after school, I may also conference with the student, with parents and/or the principal.

Things to know:

- Bathroom breaks are never during class: please go before school, at break, lunch, and after school. Please see me privately if you need to make other arrangements.
- Water bottles are permitted, but no other food or drink is allowed in the classroom.
- Each person is expected to participate and share his/her ideas. It's OK to have the wrong answer or not to know something, but all students are expected to try.
- Each seat is numbered. I will frequently use numbers to call upon students so that every person has a chance to speak or answer questions. Know the number at your seat, and always be ready to participate, you never know when I'll call YOUR number.
- Most of my library books may be checked out. Fill out the checkout slip and file it in the checkout box under your class period. Read and enjoy the book, return it to the proper basket when through, and tear up the checkout slip in the box.
- Please do not walk around the room, get out of your seat for water or to throw away trash, or sharpen pencils when I am directing a lesson at the front of the room. It is distracting to others.
- This is YOUR classroom. Take pride in it by respecting the materials and keeping it clean.

Communication

I communicate with students and parents through my website. You will find homework assignments posted there, as well as other useful information about what's going on in our classroom and at Benton. The best way for you to contact me is via email at rridgeway@nlmusd.org Although email is best, you can also leave a message for me at school (562) 943-1553.

Students, please read through the Course Expectations & Norms with your parents. You and your parents need to sign to acknowledge that you have read the Course Expectations & Norms, and agree to follow them. You can go to my web page and submit your acknowledgement of this form electronically, or return the bottom portion here by Friday, August 26, 2016.

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I understand and agree to follow the Course Expectations:

_____ Student Name		_____ Date
_____ Student Signature	LANGUAGE ARTS	_____ Class Period

I have read and discussed the Course Expectations with my child:
