



## Syllabus for Mrs. Glandorff's & Mrs. Burdette's Language Arts Classes



Our mission is to engage all students through active learning that includes hands on and minds-on lessons and activities. Our mission is to teach with respect and care so that all students feel safe and valued in our classroom. Our mission is to develop the skills necessary for all of our students to be successful in the classroom and in life.

Mrs. Glandorff & Mrs. Burdette

Language arts is a holistic approach that includes reading, writing, spelling, phonics, grammar, mechanics, and much more. For this reason, we approach our teaching and learning as a whole and not as separate writing and reading classes.

### **Language Arts:**

- Writing genres, grammar, writing structure, writing organization, mechanics, vocabulary, public speaking, presentation skills, note taking, and much more!

### **Reading:**

- Independent reading, reading comprehension, reading discussion, public speaking, reading fluency strategies, exploring reading genres, active reading strategies, application of spelling, phonics, writing through reading, and much more!

### **Discipline and Rules:**

You are expected to follow all class rules as stated in the 6th grade policy and the handbook. Respectful conduct is expected at all times and for all people in and out of the classroom.

If disrespectful behavior is being displayed, you will receive a verbal warning. If the behavior continues, your name may be written on the board. If the behavior continues, you may receive a detention, be asked to leave the classroom, be sent to the office, or be asked to call home. Further or additional consequences will depend on the frequency of the behavior as well as the type of behavior displayed.

**Required Materials:**

All materials are required to be brought to class DAILY, unless otherwise noted.

- Pencil with eraser (sharpened and ready to use)
- Assignment book
- Blue or black AND red pen for grading and proofreading
- Loose leaf notebook paper
- Reading/Language Arts Folder
- Independent reading book (brought to class at all times)
- Homework and current assignments

**Homework:**

You are expected to complete all homework on time. No excuses will be accepted. You will receive one homework pass per nine weeks to use to buy you one extra day on one daily assignment. Homework passes will not be accepted for long term assignments such as essays or projects. This class follows the homework policy established by the sixth grade teachers and Eastwood Middle School. Further consequences, such as lunch and learn, detention, and/or after school homework intervention groups, may be taken as necessary.

**Tardiness and Absenteeism:**

You are expected to be in class on time and prepared. Plan ahead and use the time between classes appropriately.

If you are absent you will have the same number of days that you were absent to make up the work. However, we highly recommend that if you are going to be absent for more than one day, you have work sent home or a parent request school work and pick it up. You CANNOT make up class discussion, examples, and practice. These are all very important to learning so please limit your absences to only those times that cannot be prevented. Remember, when you are absent, you not only will have the homework that you missed but also the work completed in class that you missed! This adds up quickly! This class follows the school policy for tardiness and absenteeism. Please review the handbook.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is taking another person's words, thoughts, or work and calling it your own. Cutting and pasting from a website or book, copying a friend's work, or even reusing an essay or project from a previous year are all forms of plagiarism. It is against the law to plagiarize and it is a violation of the school code of conduct.

During 6th grade, we work on using evidence to support our ideas and thinking. You will learn how to avoid plagiarism by citing your text evidence

correctly and by creating a works cited page. We follow the policy as stated in the handbook. Please review the handbook.

### **Independent Reading:**

You are required to have an independent reading book at all times. The book will need to fit the genre for the quarter and should be an appropriate reading level for you. We will have silent reading time daily and you will need your book for this. Books can be found from many sources including from any library, purchased, or borrowed from a friend, relative, or the classroom library.

You are asked to self censor. If you are reading a book, it is assumed to be appropriate for school and for you and your family's values. We will not censor books, unless they are clearly not at an appropriate reading level or are causing issues within the classroom. Please select books that are appropriate for you!

### **Novels and In-class Reading Assignments:**

Throughout the year we will read a variety of novels, short stories, nonfiction passages, poetry, and plays. Students are expected to read any assigned chapters or reading selections by the due date as part of their homework. Packets, vocabulary, reading comprehension questions or assignments, projects, essays, and other assignments will be based upon the books and reading selections and it is important that everyone reads the materials as assigned.

### **Flocabulary:**

Flocabulary is the weekly vocabulary program that we will use this year. Students will take a diagnostic test in August and a group level will be selected based upon this data. Vocabulary words are selected from the most frequently seen words for the grade level based upon literature selections and standardized tests. Students will receive 10-15 vocabulary words on Monday along with a packet. Packets will be completed in a combination of classroom activities and homework. Every Friday there will be a quiz. The quiz will ask students to apply the vocabulary words to sentences, stories, synonyms, and antonyms. Students are expected to study the weekly words outside of class.

### **Writing Projects:**

There will be formal writing projects each quarter. Final copies are expected to be typed in MLA format. Class time may be provided for this or it may be assigned for homework. Handwritten copies will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made in advance of the due date. Final copies may receive a zero in Schoology if non-negotiable skills are present. Non-negotiable skills are listed below. These are basic mechanical, usage,

and grammar skills that should be caught and corrected as we work through the writing process and prior to the final copy due date. If a zero is earned, you will have one opportunity to correct your writing and resubmit for a grade.

### **Non-Negotiable Skills:**

The ten skills listed below should be mastered and used correctly EVERY time you write. All class assignments, final copies, homework, or other work you are turning in for credit should show your mastery of these elementary level writing skills.

1. I can use correct capitalization.
2. I can use correct end punctuation.
3. I can capitalize all proper nouns.
4. I can spell words correctly.
5. I can write in complete sentences.
6. I can indent a new paragraph.
7. I can write a topic sentence.
8. I can provide support for my topic sentence.
9. I can make my ideas clear and understandable.
10. I can check my own work and make corrections.

### **MLA Formatting:**

Every assignment must be completed in MLA format. This is the format that you will use for all writing assignments through high school and for most college classes. All formal writing assignments should include the correct heading, be typed in 12 point font in Times New Roman font, and be double spaced with correct indentation. All informal assignments need to be headed correctly, titled, and handwritten by skipping lines. You will receive a model of MLA heading and formatting on a separate handout.

### **Grammar:**

We address grammar skills throughout each formal and informal writing assignment but also in the use of a variety of grammar based program based upon the needs of the students. We use Grammar Punk, Daily Language Review, and grammar skill sheets through Scope magazine to review and teach grammar skills. Correct grammar is expected to be used with every writing assignment.

### **Spelling:**

We do not use a formal spelling program in 6th grade. This means no weekly spelling word lists or tests! Instead, we focus spelling words correctly in our writing, using the correct word form (i.e.: their, they're, and there), and using appropriate resources to help us spell correctly.

## Contact Information:

1<sup>st</sup> preference: Email

[kglandorff@eastwoodschoools.org](mailto:kglandorff@eastwoodschoools.org)

[mburdette@eastwoodschoools.org](mailto:mburdette@eastwoodschoools.org)

2<sup>nd</sup> preference: School phone

419-833-6011 extension 1303 (Glandorff); 1309 (Burdette)

We are most likely in our classrooms and available to talk during 6<sup>th</sup> period.

If we are in class, please leave a message with the secretaries and we will return your call as soon as possible.

**This syllabus should be kept ALL year in your Reading/LA folder.**

Please sign the section below and return to your Language Arts teacher.

### Student Contract

I agree that I have read and understand the above syllabus, class rules as explained in class, and student handbook. I agree that by signing this contract I will work hard, complete homework, and try my best every day. I am capable of completing the work to my best ability and if I do not understand, I will ask Mrs. Glandorff or Mrs. Burdette for help. I understand that I am responsible for the choices that I make, the attitude I have, and the rewards or consequences that I receive because of it.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

