

Welcome to Mrs. Mundie's Honors Language Arts Class!

August 7, 2019

Dear Liberty Middle School Parents,

My name is Mrs. Megan Mundie, and this is my third year at Liberty. I taught Language Arts for five years with Auburn City Schools, and moved to Madison two years ago. I am very excited and thankful to be a part of a great team of teachers and faculty at Liberty Middle School! I received both my Bachelor's and Master's degrees at Auburn University. I completed my undergraduate degree in Graphic Design in 2008, and finished my graduate degree in Secondary English Education in 2012. The sixth grade language arts curriculum will bring many new experiences and challenges for your student, and I hope to make it a rewarding year for you and your child.

I feel that educating your child should be a team effort. I value your support as we work together to shape your child into a responsible citizen. Students can look forward to a challenging, thought-provoking, and inspiring curriculum. This year, there will be a strong emphasis on reading strategies and the reading-writing connection. Also, we will be focusing on connecting our reading and writing to create strong sentences, paragraphs, and essay responses. Through reading and writing, we will also focus on extending our vocabularies as well as our understanding of grammar concepts.

Students in Honors Language Arts classes are required to provide their own copies of novels. There will be an opportunity to purchase novels through the school in the coming weeks; however, you can obtain the copies of novels we will read this year from any source you choose.

Please read the attached classroom policies, technology information, and syllabus. Please sign and return the attached Syllabus Signature Form. Please also sign up for my email distribution list on my website using the instructions included in the syllabus.

I am looking forward to working with your child this year. You may contact me by email at mfmundie@madisoncity.k12.al.us. Please kindly allow at least 24 hours for responses and replies to emails and/or phone calls (and perhaps a little longer over weekends/holidays). Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Megan Mundie
6th Grade Honors Language Arts and Performing Arts
Liberty Middle School

6TH GRADE HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS

MRS. MUNDIE 2019-2020

SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

"This class is for students who have a passion for the reading and demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively, in both the spoken and written word. The honors class will continue students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussion, and reflection. Reading strategies, critical thinking skills, vocabulary building, and a continued focus on writing comprise the main elements of reading instruction. The focus for writing instruction will be narrative, informational, and argumentative writing with requirements based on Alabama College and Career Ready standards. The overall goal of the class is to increase the literacy and writing ability of students, and to build the students' reading and writing stamina, which will propel the students' writing to more clear and concise prose. Outside reading and summer reading are required."

- from pg. 4 of the MCS Course Catalogue



CLASS TIME

The moment the bell rings, be in your seat with your pencil sharpened, books out, and brain ready to learn. Bellwork will appear on the board every day, and you should begin this before the bell rings. I follow the LMS Student Handbook policy on tardiness. During class time, I expect you to be on task and attentive. I try my hardest to make even the most challenging aspect of Language Arts engaging, but your attitude will make all the difference. Class is not over until I dismiss you; you should not pack up until I tell you to do so. If you finish your work early, you should move on to the next task or read your library book.

POLICY ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Cheating is defined as giving or receiving information on homework, quizzes, or tests or submitting duplicate work for outside assignments. Plagiarism is using another person's ideas or writing as your own. Using technology to cheat or copy the work of another is prohibited. If you are found guilty of cheating/plagiarism, you will receive a zero on the assignment and will be referred to the office for disciplinary action.

All classroom policies and procedures are subject to change at any time, with or without written notice.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN MRS. MUNDIE'S CLASS

CLASS ROOM EXPECTATIONS

- Be respectful. Respect yourselves, each other, visitors, Mrs. Mundie, and our class room.
- Be in your seat and working when the bell rings.
- Be silent and listening when someone else is speaking.
- Follow directions the first time they are given.
- Have all materials, supplies, and homework for class.

CONSEQUENCES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

- 1st warning: Behavior ticket /verbal conference
- 2nd warning: Behavior ticket and parent contact
- 3rd warning: Detention referral
- 4th warning: Office referral

**Parents may be contacted at any point per teacher discretion.

***Certain offenses may warrant immediate office referral as found in the LMS Student Handbook.

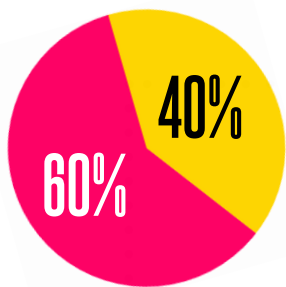
Please keep in mind these important policies and guidelines:

1. No gum or food is allowed in the classroom due to ALLERGIES. All bottles and food need to be thrown away in the hallway.
ABSOLUTELY NO PEANUT PRODUCTS IN THE CLASSROOM. Students may have a water bottle in class.
2. All school and Madison City Schools rules will be followed at all times.
3. No make-up work can be given unless each absence is excused. You have three days from the date of the absence to turn in an excuse to the front office; all unexcused absences will be given zeroes for each assignment during the absence. Make-up work is your responsibility!

PASSES OUT OF CLASS

- If you need to leave for any reason, you MUST have permission and must follow the school policies in place.
- You must sign out and sign back in on the clip board by the door each time you exit the classroom.





DISTRICT GRADING POLICY

- Tests, announced quizzes, projects, essays, other major assignments: 60%
 - Daily grades (includes homework, classwork, pop quizzes, etc.): 40%
- ***Progress reports are sent home after the 3rd and 6th week of each grading period. Grades are also accessible via iNow throughout the semester.**

CLASSROOM SUPPLIES

- Loose Leaf Paper and Graph Paper
- 3 Composition Notebooks (1 for ELA / 2 for Science)
- 2 sets of Tab Dividers (1 for ELA / 1 for Math)
- 4+ Glue Sticks
- Sticky Notes and Index Cards
- One 5 Subject College Ruled Spiral Notebook
- Pencils and Pens
- Assorted Highlighters
- Colored pencils and/or Markers
- 1 1/2 inch (or bigger) three ring binder (shared between ELA and Math)
- Scientific Calculator (TI-30XS)

PARENT COMMUNICATION

I will send out weekly newsletters (sometimes more often) through my email distribution list to keep you up-to-date on upcoming due dates, assignments, tests, and projects, as well as other important classroom information. I will also use Remind 101 for instant updates and reminders. Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions at all, and feel free to email me at any time. We will be using Google Classroom to supplement class information and as a way to do tests and assignments electronically. More information will come out about those in the next few weeks.

mfmundie@madisoncity.k12.al.us



CLASS WORK, HOMEWORK, AND PROJECTS

Students will be asked to complete a variety of assignments. All assignments done in class will normally be turned in the same day unless otherwise stated.

LATE WORK POLICY

Students will be allowed to turn in work with 10% deducted for each day it is late up to 2 days after the original due date. Students will know in advance when tests and projects are due. Late projects will be accepted late with a 10% deduction per day up to 2 days late. No extra credit work will be given.

LANGUAGE ARTS TESTS

Our scheduled testing days are Tuesdays and Thursdays. These will be the days students are assigned major tests and quizzes. Students will be notified in advance of tests to prepare in a timely manner. If school is out for weather or other reasons on a test day, the test will be the next day unless otherwise noted.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The computers in the classroom belong to the school. All computer policies set by the school and school system will be enforced in the classroom and all computer labs we visit. Computer usage is a privilege and can be taken away if the privilege is mistreated. If students bring personal devices, they are responsible for their own items; I cannot help them with any issues other than giving them information on how to log on and access the server. Students will be given opportunities to use their cellphones/iPads/e-readers/laptops, etc. Misuse of these devices during class time will result in a detention write-up. When we are not to use our devices, we will be "unplugged." When we are free to use our devices, we will be "plugged in."

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of the student to write down all homework assignments and due dates. It is difficult to make sure each student takes care of his or her responsibilities for the day, so it is up to each student to take care of his or her own work, homework, etc. Reminders for tests, projects, and homework stay on the board until the day the assignment is due, and verbal reminders are given frequently. Additionally, I will post all due dates on Google Classroom and my LMS website via the Academic Calendar. Students will not be allowed to use the excuse, "I didn't know." Please find an organizational tool (planner / calendar / homework folder, etc.) that will work for you to help you keep track of due dates.

Please sign and fill out the attached form to acknowledge that you have read the policies/procedures and syllabus. Next visit my website below to give your contact information for my distribution list.

****Please do this by Monday, August 12th, 2019.****

lms.madisoncity.k12.al.us ⇨ Teachers ⇨ Megan Mundie

Then click 6th Grade Distribution List tab at the bottom of the page!

SYLLABUS ADDENDUM

HELPFUL CODES WHEN VIEWING I-NOW

Code	What it Means
ABS	Your child was absent when the assignment was given, and your child has been excused from the assignment. It does not count negatively towards your child's average.
EX	Your child is considered exempt from the assignment. It does not count negatively toward your child's average.
NTN	This means your child did not turn in the assignment. It is averaged as a zero in the grade book. Late work will be accepted, per the LMS late work policy.
***When I-Now is accessed from certain cellular devices, these codes may appear as a zero. However, please note that ABS and EX do not impact the child's average negatively. To avoid confusion, please access I-Now from a desktop/laptop.	

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Devices should remain out of sight and hearing in the chair pouches or in the Distraction Drop Off unless we are using them for our learning during a "plugged in" day of instruction. If devices are not placed in the Distraction Drop Off, the following procedure will be implemented:

- Step 1 - Verbal Warning and Behavior Ticket
- Step 2 - Student will turn off the device and place it in the Distraction Drop Off pocket organizer. Students will be allowed retrieve the device at the end of class.

If the device becomes a consistent distraction, parents will be contacted.

All classroom policies and procedures are subject to change at any time, with or without written notice.

Mrs. Mundie's 2019-2020 Language Arts Syllabus Signature Form

I have read and understand Mrs. Mundie's classroom policies, procedures, expectations, and syllabus. I understand that dates and other items in the syllabus and classroom policies may be changed in the best interest of the class. As a student, I agree to abide by the classroom guidelines. As a parent, I am aware of the policies/procedures and have discussed them with my child.

Please complete the following with either a **YES** or **NO** in the blank provided:

_____ I have read and understand Mrs. Mundie's policies, procedures, expectations and syllabus.

_____ My child will have daily internet access at home.

_____ I have additional comments/concerns about my child. (If YES, please write them below)

_____ I have submitted my e-mail address through your e-mail distribution list. (If NO, please write the best way to contact your family here: _____)

Additional comments/concerns:

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Today's date: _____

All classroom policies and procedures are subject to change at any time, with or without written notice.