

**BILL REED MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**Syllabus and Classroom Procedures**

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**6<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts**  
**Dylan Ford and Jennifer Schlagel**  
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**Course Description:**

Language Arts is a two-semester course required for all 6th grade students. This class will be broken into three major parts: reading, writing, and speaking. The instruction and scoring for this class is based on the Common Core State Standards, which can be found at the following website: <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy>.

**Major Instructional Goals:**

Students will:

- Achieve 6th grade proficiency at reading or improve proficiency by at least one grade level.
- Develop and deliver oral presentations and participate in discussions using basic communication skills.
- Write narrative texts using common story structure and literary elements.
- Write informative, explanatory and argumentative pieces that directly address a prompt and address common standards of writing.
- Cite textual evidence in writing.
- Write using proper grammar and mechanics.

**General Expectations:**

During class, we expect students to be on time, prepared, respectful, and responsible.

Mr. Ford and Mrs. Schlagel's Philosophy on Reading encourages students to: 1) Read at school. 2) Read at home. 3) Read books they love and enjoy. 4) Challenge themselves to read from different genres. Our expectation is that students read 30 books by the end of the 2015-2016 school year.

**Preparation for Class:**

Students begin each day by writing in their agenda and 20 minutes of silent sustained reading. Every day, students are required to bring an agenda, pencil, blue, black, and red pen, notebook paper, completed homework and a silent sustained reading book. Students will also keep an interactive reader's notebook and Literacy folder. The interactive reader's notebook and Literacy folder will remain in the respective teacher's classroom.

**Standards Based Scoring:**

On behalf of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Literacy, Ms. Schlagel and I want to inform you of a grading system that we are using in Literacy/Language Arts. During the 2015-2016 calendar school year, most elementary schools were using this Standards Based Scoring system in Math. Now, 6<sup>th</sup> grade Literacy teachers are implementing the same Standards Based Scoring system. There will definitely be a change in what you see when you look at your child's grade, but it will hopefully give you a clearer picture of where your student is in regards to understanding the standards. We feel that letting you and your student know their proficiency on each standard will be more valuable than just seeing a percentage associated with our classes.

4=Exceeding expectations in the standard

3=Meeting expectations in the standard

2=Progressing towards expectations in the standard

1=Emerging towards expectations in the standard

IE=Insufficient Evidence

NA=Not Assessed

M=Missing

**STANDARDS DOMAINS STUDENTS WILL BE ASSESSED ON DURING VARIOUS TIMES THROUGHOUT THE  
2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR:**

**ELA 1: Reading**

R1 Key Ideas and Details  
R2 Craft and Structure  
R3 Integration of Knowledge and Ideas  
R4 Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

**ELA 1: Speaking/Listening**

SL1 Comprehension and Collaboration  
SL2 Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

**ELA 1: Writing – Argumentative**

W1 Text Types and Purposes  
W2 Production and Distribution of Writing  
W3 Research to Build and Present Knowledge  
W4 Range of Writing

**ELA 1: Language**

L1 Conventions of Standard English  
L2 Knowledge of Language  
L3 Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

**ELA 1: Writing - Informative/Explanatory**

W1 Text Types and Purposes  
W2 Production and Distribution of Writing  
W3 Research to Build and Present Knowledge  
W4 Range of Writing

**ELA 1: Writing - Narrative**

W1 Text Types and Purposes  
W2 Production and Distribution of Writing  
W3 Research to Build and Present Knowledge  
W4 Range of Writing

**ELA 1: Student Practices/Work Habits**=This category is the best indication of how well a student is generally doing in class. Examples of things that are scored in this category could include one or more of the following: homework completion, assignments turned in on time, being prepared, silent reading for 20 minutes, and/or classroom participation/effort.