Welcome to 6th grade Language Arts! Language Arts teachers work closely together to immerse students in the Florida Standards, including the areas of literature, informational text, writing, speaking & listening, and language.

Middle School Language Arts is the forum for students to explore and understand the past, present, and future through literature and writing. This course enables students to study the elements of Language Arts through short stories, nonfiction, drama, poetry, novels, and various writing units. Student voices will not only be heard through discussions about text, but through writing as well. Emphasis will be placed on independent and higher level thinking skills and responding to text through writing. The goal of the middle school language arts program is to develop lifelong readers and writers who can successfully communicate in our global society.

Supplies: Students are also expected to have: **one composition book, one yellow plastic pocket folder w/ prongs , paper, pencils, glue sticks, mini-stapler, small pencil sharpener and ear buds** with them in class every day. Other items they should have include: highlighters, colored pencils, post-it notes. Because there are days that I integrate technology in my classroom, **it is recommended that students have an electronic device that they can bring to school with them on a daily basis**, though it is **not** mandatory. Students will know at the start of class each day if it is a day when they should have their device out, or if it is a "no device" day. **Students should be respectful and keep their device in their backpack if it is a "no device" day.** Students should keep a book with them at ALL times for designated silent reading time or in the event that work is completed early. If students don't know what they should read, I can provide book suggestions.

Grading: Language Arts will be graded using a points system. All assignments will be divided into two categories: assignments or assessments. Everything is weighted the same, although the points for assignments will vary, depending upon the assignment, its difficulty and its correlation to the focus standard. For example, a homework assignment may be worth 10 points, while an essay is worth 30 points. The point value assigned to each assignment will determine the cumulative grade each grading period and may be changed at any time, at the teacher's discretion. Please refer to the MyStudent gradebook to track student grades and assignments.

Assignments: The assignments category will include classwork and homework.

> **Classwork:** Students will keep an Interactive Notebook. Most of their classwork will be completed in this notebook. Periodically it will be collected for grading. In addition, students will have assignments that are completed outside of their interactive notebook, utilizing the ELA myLearning platform.

> **Homework:** Students will be expected to read for at least 20 minutes each evening. Other homework could include reading, written assignments, reviewing notes, online practice, and/or studying or completing work not finished in class. Please check MyStudent each night for homework assignments. Students are responsible for keeping up with their myLearning Modules.

Assessments: Students will have assessments throughout the year to determine their proficiency level of a concept. These could take a variety of formats, like performance task, short response, essay, multiple choice, project, etc. Throughout the year, students will be given writing assignments and projects. These will be assigned in advance, so that there is ample time to complete it to the best of their ability.   As they are assigned, information will be posted on myStudent and given to each student. Many assessments will require students to submit their response electronically via myPascoConnect apps.

Late Work: Students are expected to have their work turned in on time. Late work will be penalized with a reduction of points.

Make-Up Work: Students who are absent will have two days per day of *excused* absence to complete their work. Please note that any work assigned prior to an absence is not considered make-up work and is due at the start of class upon the student's return. It is the student's responsibility to check with a partner for missing pages in the interactive notebook and/or the absent work bin upon their return.

Grade Scale: A=90%-100% , B=80%-89%, C=70%-79% , D=60%-69% = D, F=below 60%

Contact Information: Call the school at 813-346-1200 or e-mail me at cswenson@pasco.k12.fl.us

Student Rules and Behavioral Expectations: Students are expected to follow the code of conduct as outlined in the Rushe planner on MyLearning. Please review the expectations with your student.

Online Programs

Single Sign On-All of the programs listed below may be accessed through Single-Sign On: Click on https://launchpad.classlink.com/dsbpc and sign on. The user name is the student's lunch number and the password is their usual 8-digit password (funky password) Once logged in, students can access the programs with one click, instead of having to go into each program and signing into each one.

MyLearning (Canvas) – This is a Pasco County site that requires a log in. Students will be given their login information to keep in their interactive notebook or they can access it through Single Sign-On. I use this site to post information for students. In addition, students will participate in discussions, quizzes and turn assignments in. Parents can create an account to monitor their student's activity on MyLearning.

Office 365 - Office 365 will allow students to type something at school (text document or slideshow) without needing a USB drive to save it. Students can also access their account from anywhere with Internet access. Students will be provided an account through Pasco County. Their login information will be in their Interactive Notebook and on Single Sign-On. Students will also have access to a school-based e-mail account.

Families: Stay Connected

We have many opportunities to stay connected with what is going on at school and in class. Here are some ways to keep connected. These are not required, but are a great way for you stay in the loop.

E-Mail - Do not hesitate to e-mail me at cswenson@pasco.k12.fl.us if you have a question or concern.

MyStudent: This is an online gradebook that parents and students should access daily to see upcoming assignments, missing work and scores on graded assignments.

Text Reminders – I've signed up for an account on Remind.com that will allow me to send a text out to students and parents who sign up. This will be used to send reminders about tests and/or quizzes, projects, homework, or other important news. Mrs. Swenson Gifted Code: @swen-gift6

Social Media – If you would like to follow my class or Rushe on social media, here are some links:

School Twitter: @rushemiddle   Mrs. Swenson's Twitter: @mrscswenson

School Facebook: @rushe.raven   Mrs. Swenson Instagram: mrs.cswenson

Please let me know if you have any questions and feel free to use any of the above that will be useful for you and your student. The goal is to keep the lines of communication open between school and home.

Teacher reserves the right to amend the syllabus at any time.

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Dear Parent/Guardian(s),

I am honored to have your son/daughter in my class this year. It is my goal to expand their depth of knowledge in literary and informational text analysis and writing skills and show them the joys of being a life-long learner. Please read over the course syllabus and then print and sign your name, provide an e-mail address, and the best number to reach you during school hours on the lines provided.

Thank you,
Mrs. Swenson/Mrs. Loxton

Please turn in the following information by Friday, August 28th.

Student Name:

Student Class Period:

Parent / GuardianName:

Parent Guardian Email Address:

Parent / Guardian Phone Number: