



6th Grade English Syllabus:

Hello! I am Mrs. Vasiliou, your 6th grade English teacher. I have been teaching for 15 years and I am excited for my first year as a 6th grade teacher. I hope you're as thrilled as I am for all the learning and adventures we'll have together.

I absolutely love helping students discover the joys of reading, writing, and expressing themselves through language. Outside of school, I enjoy shopping, working out and spending time with family. This year I will also be the middle school cheerleading coach. I'm always eager to hear about your interests too!

In our class, we'll be diving into some incredible stories, exploring new ideas, and sharpening our skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. It's going to be a year full of growth, creativity, and fun challenges.

I believe that every one of you has something special and valuable to contribute to our classroom community. I'm here to support you, challenge you, and celebrate your successes along the way. I am intense because I care. I expect all students to come to class with the will to want to learn. I am here because it is my job to help you reach your goals and have a successful future. It is your job to write your own story. You have the power to shape your experiences, make choices, and create a path that leads to success. Whether it's through the words you write, the ideas you share, or the dreams you pursue, this classroom is a space where you can explore, grow, and discover the unique voice within you.

Feel free to come to me with any questions or concerns you may have. Let's work together to make this a fantastic year of learning and discovery!

I am eager to learn more about each of you and the incredible stories you will create this year. Let's embark on this adventure together and make this year one of growth, inspiration, and endless possibilities. Here's to an amazing journey ahead!

****10 things every middle schooler should know****

- 1. Small habits lead to BIG results.**
- 2. Focus on progress, not perfection.**
- 3. Don't change WHO you are to fit in.**
- 4. What you think you want most isn't always what's right for you.**
- 5. You don't have to have your life all figured out yet.**
- 6. It's ok to outgrow people, and it's ok to spend less time with those people.**
- 7. Your phone can help you...or hurt you. Be careful with it.**
- 8. You are in control of your life. Including your emotions, actions, and reactions.**
- 9. It's ok to not be ok. It's also ok to admit it and talk about it...even if it's hard.**
- 10. No matter what happened last...You decide what happens next in the way you choose to move forward...MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE IN THAT MOMENT SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO FACE CONSEQUENCES LATER!**

Course description:

This course is designed to enhance students' reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills through a variety of literary genres and language activities. We will explore literature, grammar, vocabulary, and communication to foster a deeper appreciation and understanding of the English language.

Standards of Learning focus:

6.4- Vocabulary

6.5- Literary Elements

6.6- Elements of Nonfiction

6.7- Writing and Researching

6.8- Grammar and Editing

Course Objectives:**Reading Comprehension:**

- Reading and analyzing various texts (fiction, non-fiction, poetry)
- Identifying main ideas, themes, and supporting details
- Making inferences and drawing conclusions
- Analyzing characters, settings, and plot elements

Vocabulary Building:

- Learning new words through context clues, word roots, and affixes
- Understanding figurative language (similes, metaphors, idioms)
- Using vocabulary in context through writing and speaking exercises

Writing Skills:

- Writing narratives, descriptive essays, and expository texts
- Developing a clear main idea and supporting it with details
- Organizing writing into paragraphs with topic sentences and transitions
- Editing and revising for grammar, punctuation, and clarity

Grammar and Language Usage:

- Parts of speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, etc.)
- Sentence structure (simple, compound, complex sentences)
- Subject-verb agreement, tense consistency, and punctuation rules

Speaking and Listening:

- Participating in discussions and group activities
- Presenting ideas clearly and logically

- Actively listening to peers and responding thoughtfully

Research Skills:

- Conducting basic research using print and digital resources
- Evaluating sources for credibility and reliability
- Citing sources using a standard format (e.g., MLA or APA)

Literature Study:

- Exploring various genres such as fiction, poetry, drama, and non-fiction
- Discussing themes, character development, and author's purpose
- Comparing and contrasting different works and authors

Critical Thinking:

- Analyzing arguments and evaluating evidence
- Forming opinions based on evidence from texts
- Recognizing bias and point of view in different texts

Creative Expression:

- Engaging in creative writing activities (stories, poems, etc.)
- Exploring different forms of expression (e.g., journals, plays, etc.)

Digital Literacy:

- Using technology for research and presentation purposes
- Understanding online safety and responsible digital citizenship

Classroom Policies:

Attendance and punctuality are essential for participation and success. Respectful behavior towards peers and the teacher is expected at all times. Remember, you do not have to like your teacher or classmates, but you DO have to RESPECT me and them. Practice the 5P's...Be prompt, polite, prepared, productive and patient. Use of electronic devices is permitted only for educational purposes as directed by the teacher. Students will be assessed and graded throughout the course on quizzes, tests, grammar and vocabulary. Students will also be graded on writing assignments such as essays, non-fiction question/answer prompts, reading responses and performance within the classroom (behavior and actively participating in the given assignment or activity). There will be a behavior expectation scale in which all students will be graded based on a rubric. Specific assignments will be weighted. All students should aim to be a good role model, have work completed on time and have effort that goes above and beyond.

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CLASS FAMILY PROMISE

As a family, we promise to treat others how we want to be treated. We will show respect by helping each other be our best. We will be positive, friendly, and fair.

We will be problem solvers! We can do hard things! We will learn from our mistakes and rest when we need a break. We will apologize when we are wrong and forgive one another. We are a class family. This is who we are and what we do, even when no one is watching!

Materials (for both English and history classes):

Please have all spiral notebooks, composition books and folders labeled ahead of time with your name and class. It would also be helpful to write which block you are in on these items.

- 2 (24 packs) of #2 pencils...enough to last the year
- 2 wide ruled composition notebooks (Both for English)
- 2 9x11" spiral notebook by Pen & Gear at Walmart (1 for English, 1 for history)
- black expo markers
- scissors
- glue sticks
- colored pencils or crayons
- yellow highlighters
- 3 plastic pocket folders: 1 yellow (writing), 1 purple (reading), 1 any other color (history)
- 1 pack of wide ruled paper (Will be used in English and history)
- 1 pack of file folders OR 1 pack of clear sheet protectors (Used in English and history)
- colored pens (red for editing and other colors for note taking)
- post-it notes
- 2 pencil bags or 1 big bag for your supplies
- Optional: Agenda or calendar to write assignments and important information.