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Big Spring Middle School

Sixth-Grade English Language Arts

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Welcome to English Language Arts!

It is exciting to begin a new school year, and with that, there is much to know about our course of study. Here is a general overview of English Language Arts:

Areas of Study

- Reading Skills
- Writing Skills
- Word Study (Grammar and Vocabulary)
- Listening and Speaking Skills



Responsibilities of the teacher

- Maintain a safe and respectful classroom environment.
- Prepare engaging activities and lessons to challenge students' thinking and learning.
- Follow Pennsylvania Common Core Standards.
- Address the varied, diverse educational needs of students.
- Communicate with students and families.
- Maintain current, accurate scores in Aspen.
- Be an advocate for students and their families.



Work Expectations, Students' Responsibilities

- Be prepared for class.
 - Charged Chromebook
 - ELA materials
 - Independent reading book
 - Pencils
 - Positive attitude
- Be ready to participate and volunteer.
- Be ready to work hard.
- Be ready to make mistakes and learn from those mistakes.
- Be ready to enjoy ELA class.



Behavior Expectations for Students

- Be respectful.
 - Use kind words.
 - Use manners such as "please" and "thank you".
- Take turns.
- Wait patiently.
- When in doubt, stop and think.



Grading

- 20% of your grade is for **homework and classwork**
 - Homework done independently
 - Classwork done in class independently
 - Classwork done with the help of the teacher and/or other students
- 45% of your grade is for **quizzes**
 - Small quizzes that show where we are in our learning during a unit of study
 - Reading skills
 - Word skills
- 35% of your grade is for **performance tasks and tests**
 - Unit tests that show where in our learning at the end of a unit of study
 - Writing assignments
 - Projects



Routines, Ways We Work

- Beginning of class
 - Each day, be aware of announcements, due dates, and assignments.
 - Sharpen pencils before class begins.
 - Get out any needed materials.
- Ways we work during class
 - Whole group
 - Small groups
 - Partners
 - Individually
 - Small, teacher-led groups
 - Small groups/partners/individuals working independently for various activity stations



Helpful Hints

- Stay on top of your work.
- Record assignments, due dates, and assessment dates in a notebook or planner.
- Use class time wisely.
- Learn and understand the functions of the Chromebook, Google Drive, and Google Classroom.
- Do a weekly organization check.
 - Check email messages, responding as needed.
 - Organize papers in all folders.
 - Keep a tidy backpack, taking home unneeded items.
- Ask for help
 - During class
 - During WIN
 - Idea: Email the teacher to “schedule” the help you need.



We look forward to an excellent year!

Mrs. Beatty and Mr. Nerone

