

6th Grade English Course Information

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Course Objectives

The English Language Arts curriculum for 6th grade incorporates literature, composition, academic discourse, and grammar.

Semester 1

Cycle 1- Personal Narrative and Short Stories

Cycle 2- Realistic Fiction, Drama, Poetry

Cycle 3- Information Texts- Expository (Nonfiction) and Procedural (How-to) Texts

**Specific information will be provided online each grading cycle. If for any reason we find that we need to move or change units, we will provide this information in a timely manner.*

Semester 2

Cycle 4- Narrative (Fiction) Stories, Writing Fiction

Cycle 5- Persuasive Text and Writing, Multi-genre Review

Cycle 6- Inquiry Based Research, Multimedia Presentation

Tutorials

English tutorials will be held from 3:55–4:55 on Wednesdays. During this time, students may seek additional help on any classwork or projects. This time is also set aside for test make-ups. Test make-ups will not be given during class time. Unless other arrangements are made, I expect students to arrive between 3:55 and 4:00.

I am also available to answer quick questions and help students during TEAM Time. Students are expected to get a pass from me to bring to their TEAM Time teacher and check in for attendance.

If students are unable to make it to tutorials on Tuesdays or they need additional help, I am willing to meet with them during lunch or on additional days after school as long as they schedule a time with me.

Materials

Bring the following supplies to English class every day:

- Planner
- Bound composition notebook
- Pen- black or blue for graded work
- Notebook paper
- Independent reading book (eBooks are acceptable)
- Pencil
- Colored pencils and/or markers
- Highlighters

** Additional supplies may be requested throughout the year and students will be given time to acquire them.*

Required Reading

Students will be required to read both in and outside of class. At times students will have *free choice* where they will be able to choose any genre for independent reading they wish. Other times, students will be given specific genres from which to choose their independent reading. They will be given ample notice of the upcoming reading assignments. Students will complete a variety of independent reading assignments throughout the year. Students are always expected to bring their current independent reading book to class, as we frequently use these books in our lessons.

Grading

Grades for 6th Grade English will be determined based on a TOTAL POINTS system. Assignments are given a point value based on the difficulty or expended effort. Longer or more challenging assignments will be worth more points. The average is based on: **Total Points Earned / Total Points Possible**

Grades will break down to approximately:

Major Grades - 40%: Tests, Projects, Essays

Daily Grades - 60%: Quizzes, Class Assignments, Homework*, Quick Writes

**Homework assignments will not total more than 10% of the students overall average. Please keep in mind that there will be activities such as independent reading that need to be completed outside of class in order to be prepared for class activities.*

**Please note that grades will appear in PSConnect as the point values students have earned. For example, you may see a 13 in the grade book which may indicate that the student has earned 13 of 15 points, not 13%. Please look at the total points available for the assignment.*

Late Work

Due dates for classwork and homework will be clearly communicated to the students. If the classwork or homework assignment is not turned in by the assigned due date, the grade is subjected to a 10% penalty up until the unit/chapter summative assessment. If the work is turned in after the summative assessment date, the grade will be subjected to a 50% penalty.

Missing assignments will be designated as MSG in Gradespeed until they are turned in and have been graded. Three late or missing assignments will result in a lowered conduct grade.

When major or lengthy class assignments are not turned in by the end of the cycle, students will be given an Incomplete (INC) on their report card. They will have one week from the date report cards are sent home to complete and turn in assignments. The grade will then be changed to reflect mastery of the objectives. At that time, work that is not completed will result in a 0.

In the case of absences, the HISD policy will be followed - please refer to student planner.

Conduct

All students will begin each grading cycle with an 'E' in conduct. Students will receive cuts in conduct for multiple classroom infractions. On the student's 3rd infraction during one grading cycle, the student's conduct will be cut to an 'S.' On the student's 6th infraction during one grading cycle, the student's parents will be notified, the student's conduct will be cut to a 'P.' Continued infractions, even if minor will result in cluster detentions or a referral to the house principal.

Classroom infractions may include, but are not limited to, the following: tardy to class, having gum or candy during class, behaving in a disruptive manner during class, turning in assignments late, or failure to bring classroom supplies. Please note that severe misbehavior, disrespect, or classroom disruption will result in and disciplinary referral to the house principal in addition to an automatic conduct cut.

Cheating, Copying, and Plagiarism

Cheating, copying, and plagiarism are Level II offenses and will result in an administrative referral. Students must take responsibility for their own learning and they acquire no skills by claiming another's work as their own. A student must also take a stand for honesty and not allow others to copy his or her work.

If the student is caught cheating, copying, or plagiarizing work, the student will be allowed to re-do the entire assignment in a tutoring session and a grade penalty will be assessed. Depending on the circumstances of the offense, the student may be referred for disciplinary action.

Technology

Students will have a variety of technology available to them in English class: laptops, iPads, etc. At times, students will use Google Classroom and Google Drive account which is managed through HISD (with safety restrictions) to submit assignments electronically.

Communication

Communication is extremely important to me. I am here to do everything I can to help your child succeed. I will reach out to you if I have any questions, comments, or concerns (I will also reach out to you to tell you how amazing your child is :)). It is easiest for me to communicate through email, though I will call you depending on the situation. Please, feel free to call or email me at any time and I will get back to you within 24 hours. You can also stay up to date on what's happening in my classroom by visiting my class blog here: <https://www.houstonisd.org/Page/176661>