**Mr. Wells**

**Course Syllabus 2024-2025**



Dear Students and Parents:

I am looking forward to sharing this school term with you. Welcome to sixth grade!  We are looking forward to sharing the next school year with you. I believe that we will have a fabulous year exploring the various forms of writing and literary genres.

**Course Description and Objectives**

Instruction in 6th grade English Language Arts addresses students’ increasing maturity and the growing sophistication of their abilities. Students should be able to comprehend more challenging books and articles, basing all their analyses, inferences, and claims on explicit and relevant evidence from the texts. Students will expand on their ability to identify central ideas by identifying how those themes are shaped and conveyed by particular details. Their analysis of basic literary elements will extend to identifying connections and complexities within narratives and how individual elements weave together to advance plot and reveal character. The evaluation of the impact of language on tone and meaning will begin to include more sophisticated concepts such as analogy and allusion, subtleties in point of view such as dramatic irony, and a more sophisticated appreciation for connotative diction. These skills will be incorporated into the students’ own narrative writing. While continuing with a variety of literary non-fiction, students in 6th grade will begin to tackle more technical informational texts as well.

**Textbook**

*Houghton Mifflin Harcourt into Literature*

\*Students will receive this paperback textbook; it will also serve as a workbook. Students are expected to be responsible with their textbook and bring it to class every day.

**Novels**

*\*The following are possible novels that will be read within the 6th grade. The teacher will decide which novels will be selected and will notify parents and students.*

* *The Giver by Lois Lowry*
* *Crispin: The cross of Lead by Avi*
* *Holes by Louis Sachar*
* *New Kid by Jerry Craft*

**Unit/Concept Names**

Unit 1: Development of Character/Ideas

Unit 2: Central Ideas

Unit 3: Text Structures

Unit 4: Point of View

Unit 5: Summarizing Text

Unit 6: Text Analysis

**Richmond County Board of Education Grading Policy**

**Final grades will be determined by the cumulative semester average using the following criteria:**

Minor Grades 60% (Classwork, quizzes, and other graded assignments to assess particular

standards in a unit of study.)

* + **Minimum number** of minor grades per 6-week progress report period = **5**

Major Grades 40% (unit tests, essays, research papers, project-based assignments, and

other culminating assessments to measure mastery of standards that comprise a unit

of study.)

**Minimum number** of major grades per 6-week progress report period = **2**

**Academic Grading Scale**

 A (90-100) B (80-89) C (75-79) D (70-74) F (below 70)



* Parents are encouraged to monitor their child’s grades using the district Infinite Campus Parent Portal.
* Please contact the front office at 706-737-7288 for information to gain access to Infinite Campus.

**Academic Dishonesty**

The Student Code of Conduct, Rule 1(A)(t), states that no student shall cheat, alter records, plagiarize, receive unauthorized assistance or assist another in any type of academic dishonesty. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty will be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher and a supervising administrator, taking into consideration any written materials, observation, or information from witnesses. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, the task may be entered as “incomplete” and the student required to redo the assignment or retake the assessment.

**Class Work**

Participation in class activities and class assignments are important to informally assess student learning and understanding. All students are expected to participate in class. Reading and class discussion will also factor into students' participation grade. Students are responsible for any work missed during instructional hours.

**Late Work**

Late work is defined as assignments that are submitted after the specified deadline. This does not apply to work submitted late due to absence from school. Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Multiple incidents of late work may result in teacher-student-parent conferences to examine and correct the student’s work habits through a behavior and academic contract. Students may have their scores reduced by 5% per school day for a 25% maximum reduction (five school days). Late work submitted after the fifth school day will **NOT** be accepted. Completing work in a timely manner during the learning unit is essential for academic success. If the score is reduced for late work, there will be a notation in the Infinite Campus comment section of the gradebook to reflect the reduction for late work.

**Make-up Work**

Students are responsible for obtaining any missed work when they are absent. It is the students’ responsibility to complete and submit it in a timely manner. Notes and other missing assignments must be obtained from another student, additionally assignments and lessons, however, are **ALWAYS** on Canvas, where students can go to receive the missed material. Make-up work should be completed by the student within the time specified by the teacher.

**Homework**

Each day, students are expected to check the homework board and write the assignment in their planner. Homework will not be given every night, only on a needed basis.

Students will receive homework to enforce key concepts discussed during class. Students are expected to complete and turn in all homework in a timely manner. Homework is usually due the next day, unless otherwise specified by the teacher.

**Relearn & Reassess (R&R Procedures)**

After any major assessment, students will have the opportunity to submit a relearning plan for parent and teacher approval. Upon satisfactory completion of the plan, as determined by the teacher, students will be given **ONE** opportunity to be reassessed. Students scoring below 70 on a major assessment should be expected to complete a relearning plan unless exempted with parent approval.

It is the teacher discretion to determine if R&R opportunities will be given for any **minor assessment**.

**AI Guidance**

The Student Code of Conduct, Rule 1(A)(t), states that no student shall cheat, alter records, plagiarize, receive unauthorized assistance, or assist another in any type of academic dishonesty. The unauthorized or improper use of an artificial intelligence (AI) program constitutes academic dishonesty.

**Cell phones** are not permitted in class, per school policy, and should not be seen nor heard. Students should turn cell phones off and place them in their bookbags.

**Classroom Procedures & Expectations**

Students are expected to come to class every day prepared and ready to learn with a positive attitude. Students are required to act in a behavior conducive to learning, according to Richmond County Board of Education Schools code of conduct, and those rules established by Tutt Middle School. If students are not able to follow the rules, they will be disciplined according to the steps and procedures detailed in the Student Handbook.

Students will respect their work environment and everyone in it.

Students will follow all directions the first time given.

Students will be prepared, prompt, and in the appropriate location.

Students will complete all assignments on time.

Students will raise their hands to answer questions and leave their seat.

Students will always keep their hands and feet to themselves.

Students will use academic and other appropriate language.

Students will comply with all guidelines found in the RCBOE student handbook.

**Course Materials**

1. Language and Literature notebook (3-ring binder)

2. Paper/Pencils/Pens (Blue or Black)

3. Composition notebook

4. Reading Material

5. Post-it notes

6. Index Cards

7. Colored Pencils/markers or crayons

**Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further guidance on Richmond County School System’s policies and procedures.**

**Contact information:**

**Email:** Wellsty@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

**Cell Phone:** 943-888-7280

**Remind 101**: The following codes will grant you access to my remind 101, to receive messages and notifications regarding Language & Literature. Please use the appropriate code based on homeroom.

Mr. Wells Homeroom: @llwell

Ms. Alexander Homeroom: @llalex

Ms. Ward Homeroom: @llwardh

Ms. Akridge Homeroom: @llakr

\*If a parent conference is needed, I will be available Thursday of each week.

**Tutt Middle School Phone Number:** 706-737-7288

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Please sign and return this portion of the syllabus to affirm that you have reviewed this document:

Student’s Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_