

## ***From Ms. Ussin's Lang. Arts Desk...***

*Please communicate with me via e-mail. [ussinia@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us](mailto:ussinia@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us)*

Dear Parent(s):

This year promises to be one that will challenge your child and take him/her to new academic heights! My ultimate goal is to make your child an **EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR** by fostering excellent reading, writing, and speaking skills.

The Georgia 6<sup>th</sup> grade English/Lang. Arts (ELA) curriculum is pretty rigorous. We will cover quite a bit of material this year. Students' maximum effort and participation is required in class and at home with homework assignments, as this is the only way to ensure their success. Our school year is divided into units. The following is a plan for our units of study.

Unit 1 – *1<sup>st</sup> 9-week Period – Narrative Texts and Writing*

Unit 2 – *2<sup>nd</sup> 9-week Period – Informational Texts and Writing*

Unit 3 – *3<sup>rd</sup> 9-week Period – Argumentative Texts and Writing*

Unit 4 – *4<sup>th</sup> 9-week Period – Narrative, Informational & Argumentative Texts and Writing*

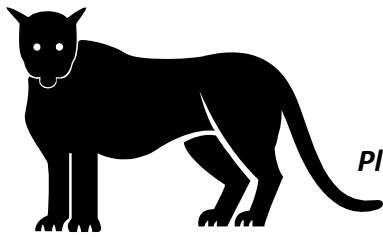
*\*Required novels for each unit will be provided by our school library unless otherwise stated.\**

Each unit will end with a culminating project/major assignment **and/or** test for students to display their level of understanding and mastery. Quizzes, which will be given periodically throughout each unit, and tests will be announced in ample time for study. Project guidelines will be given well in advance of due dates. Grammar and vocabulary instruction is heavily intertwined and ongoing throughout each unit.

### ***Class Website\*\*\****

Questions about all things Language Arts can probably be answered with a visit to the website. **The class website is our Bible—everything's there!** Students will be familiarized with the site in class. Parents should familiarize themselves too.

**Homework** in Lang. Arts is used to prepare students for material to be later presented in class, or to continue or wrap up concepts that have already been covered. Homework completion is **CRUCIAL**. If students are not completing and turning in homework, it can hurt their grades and progress. Without practicing and working with concepts daily, students may experience a gap in learning. **If absent, students are required to visit the class website to retrieve homework and other assignments that should be completed and submitted as agreed upon with Ms. Ussin (as stated in the Richmond County Board of Education Code of Conduct).** Absence is the only time late assignments will be accepted. (*Gain access to the class page from ARJ's school website. It is updated daily.*) **See Parent Homework on pg. 3.**



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### **Supplies**

Please make sure your child has the necessary supplies for class (see supply list on **class website**). We write in **ink ONLY** in Lang. Arts. Work done in pencil will need to be redone in ink before it is accepted and may suffer a 3-point loss if late.

### **ELA Grading Scale**

Summative Writing Assignments & Performance Tasks – 50%  
Quizzes, Classwork, Formative Writing Assignments – 40%  
Homework & Class Participation (Literary Discussion) – 10%

### **Tutoring**

Tutoring is available **Wednesdays, 3:30-4:15** upon request. Students/Parents must give at least a 24-hour notice so individualized instruction can be prepared.

### **Grade Recovery**

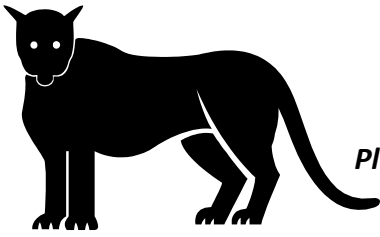
If a student has been unsuccessful in proving his/her mastery of a concept/standard, parents will be contacted. The student will be given the opportunity to revisit concepts/standards with *USA Test Prep*, *iReady* or some other supplemental site for differentiated instruction. Ms. Ussin will monitor the student and prescribe next steps and final assessments for grading.

### **Rituals and Routines**

- **Homework** will be assigned daily. (Some Fridays)
- **Agendas** are vital for communication between teachers and parents. They will be used daily for students to record homework assignments and other pertinent information.
- All project/major assignment rubrics are to be **signed by a parent and returned** the very next school day after having been sent home.
- Please follow your child's progress with **Infinite Campus** on the Richmond County Board of Education website. Grades will be entered there on a weekly basis and will reflect the week prior. Contact the ARJ Registrar or visit the RCBOE website to gain Infinite Campus access.

### **Students are required to...**

- enter the classroom in a quiet and orderly fashion and begin the ELA warm-up.
- come prepared, daily, and on time, with necessary class materials.
- refrain from eating, drinking, or chewing anything in the classroom.
- respect everyone.
- follow all school and RCSS procedures.



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***If students do not follow these and/or other school practices, the following discipline will be enforced and monitored by the Class Dojo system.***

Step 1 – Verbal Warning

Step 2 – Call Home & Discipline Writing Assignment (parent signature required)

*(If student does not complete assignment, s/he will be assigned P.M. Detention to complete it.)*

Step 3 – P.M. Detention (1 Day)

Step 4 – Richmond County write-up w/ principal-assigned consequence

\*\*\* Please note that the information in this syllabus is as close to final as possible. Although not expected, things can change. If and when changes are necessary, I will do everything in my power to communicate those changes as soon as humanly possible, which will likely be done via the **class website**.\*\*\*

*Ms. J. Ussin*

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## **PARENT HOMEWORK**

1. Go to Ms. Ussin's website.
2. Click on the *Student Information and Parent Contact* page.
3. Complete the form.

**If this homework is completed by Friday, August 9, your child will earn 3 points for his/her team for the first team challenge of the school year!**