

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

Please communicate with me via e-mail. msussinteaches@gmail.com

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 6th 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 – ***1st 9-week Period – Informational & Literary Texts and Writing***

Unit 2 – ***2nd 9-week Period – Informational & Literary Texts and Writing (The Essay)***

Unit 3 – ***3rd 9-week Period – Argumentative & Literary Texts and Writing (The Speech)***

Unit 4 – ***4th 9-week Period – Informational, Argumentative & Literary 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. Tests and quizzes (*which will be given periodically throughout each unit*) 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.**

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 learning gaps.

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 receive full credit.

Homework assignments, long-term assignments and project guidelines and examples can be found on the class website, which is updated daily. ***Please become familiar with the class website.***

Supplies

Please make sure your child has the necessary supplies for class.

- 1-inch binder
- dividers (5)
- loose leaf paper
- **red** ink
- **blue** or black ink ONLY for daily work (*no click-click pens please*)
- correction tape (*no liquid white out please*)
- headphones (*plug-in cord required*)

**Pencil/Pen pouches may be helpful, but are not required. **

BYOT (Bring Your Own Technology)

Students will make note in their agendas when they are expected to bring technology to class. It will also be noted on the class website. When technology is in use in class, students can use cell phones, tablets/iPads, or laptops for the activities. When it's time for major writing assignments, we will have school computers in our class or we will use one of the school's computer labs.

Student E-mail Address

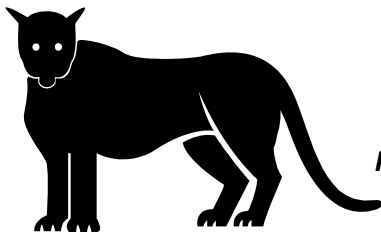
Students are REQUIRED to have a Gmail e-mail address for ELA. Many assignments and activities will be housed in the Gmail/Google Drive for easy grading and speedy feedback. There will even be some quizzes done through Gmail/Google. **Students won't be able to access these assignments without a Gmail e-mail address.** If students already have a Gmail e-mail account, they can use the account that they already have. I do ask, however, that the name be changed on the account if it does not follow the example below.

If students do not already have a Gmail e-mail address, they should create an address using the preferred format with their first and last names as follows: **michelle.winston@gmail.com**.

*****We will create e-mail accounts in class.*****

ELA Grading Scale

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



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Tutoring

Tutoring is available for any student who desires it. Sessions will be held on **Tuesdays, 3:20-4:20** in my classroom. 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, s/he will be given the opportunity to retest (quizzes and tests **ONLY**) at the teacher's discretion and after discussing with a parent, as each situation is different and requires different treatment.

Rituals and Routines

- ***Homework*** will be assigned Monday -Thursday, and on Friday as necessary.
- ***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 class period 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 Guidance Department to sign up for 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.

If students do not follow these and/or other school practices, the following discipline will be enforced.

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

My Child Has 2 Language Arts Classes

Every child, of course, will see me on their schedule for their regular Language Arts class, but some students will see me twice.

If your child has **ConEnr** on his/her schedule, this means he/she will be in the **Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl** class. This class does not guarantee that your child will participate in the bowl, but every child in the class will be expected to perform and prepare like they are planning to compete. We will read a number of books that will not be read in the regular Lang. Arts class and students will participate in activities that are designed specifically for reading bowl preparation.

If your child has **ABEnrich** on his/her schedule, this means he/she will be in **Lang. Arts Enrichment**, and this class does exactly what it says—enriches. Based on i-Ready and/or Milestone scores, students were placed in the class to get more hands-on, activity-based learning that will supplement what they're learning in the regular Lang. Arts class. These students will have Lang. Arts every day.

Student Information & Parent Contact

Visit my class website to complete contact information and other fun stuff about your child ☺. If this is complete by **Friday, August 10th**, your child will receive 3 points toward his/her first graded homework assignment.

Look for **Student Information & Parent Contact** on the website.

*** Please note that the information in this syllabus is as close to final as possible. Things are always, however, subject to change. If and when changes are necessary, I will do everything in my power to communicate those changes as soon as humanly possible.***

I welcome your questions and/or concerns, as I'm here to walk alongside you toward your child's academic success. The school day is VERY busy, and phone calls just aren't the best way to communicate with me. E-mail, however, is a sure way. I communicate very heavily by e-mail, as I'll usually be working at my computer during the planning period in my day, and working at my home computer in the evenings until 6:30 pm. Please don't hesitate to reach out. Use msussinteaches@gmail.com for a more speedy response.

Let's have a good year!

Ms. J. Ussin