**ELA 6**

**Ms Weston**

**Course Syllabus 2024-2025**

**Course Description and Objectives**

The grades six through eight standards define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. Instruction in grades 6-8 addresses students’ increasing maturity and the growing sophistication of their abilities, culminating in the development by the end of grade eight of students who are ready to succeed in high school. Students should be able to comprehend more challenging books and articles, basing all of 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 and expository writing. Students will become increasingly adept at understanding an author’s biases, the use of complex rhetorical devices including logical fallacies, and tailoring their own prose for maximum influence. While continuing with a variety of literary non-fiction, students in grades 6-8 will begin to tackle more technical informational texts as well. Literary selections will include foundational materials from mythology, cultural histories, and religious traditions.

**Textbook**

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Into Literature, 6th grade

**Unit/Concept Names**

Unit 1 Development of Characteristics

Unit 2 Central Ideas

Unit 3 Text Structure

Unit 4 Point of View

Unit 5 Summarizing Texts

Unit 6 Text Analysis

Unit Review Show What You Know

**Richmond County Board of Education Grading Policy**

* Minor Grades 60% (Quizzes, labs, other graded assignments to assess certain standards in a unit of study)
  + **Minimum number** of minor grades per 6-week progress report period = **5**
* Major Grades 40% (Unit tests, essays, project-based assignments, and other culminating assessments to measure master 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.

**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 an academic contract. Students in grades 6-12 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 only be accepted at the teacher’s discretion. Completing work in a timely manner during the learning unit is essential for academic success. If the score is reduced for late work, the teacher must make a notation in the Infinite Campus comment section of the gradebook to reflect the reduction for late work. Students and parents should refer to the teacher’s course syllabus for specific late work procedures.

**Make-up Work**

Students are expected to make-up assignments and assessments that were missed due to absence from school. Students are responsible for asking teachers for the make-up work upon returning to class. Make-up work should be completed by the student within the time specified by the teacher. Teachers should provide reasonable timelines for completing make-up work. Generally, such work should be completed within 5 days of returning to school. A student should not be required to take a quiz or test on their first day back at school if the assessment was first announced during their absence. Graded assignments should be scored to accurately reflect the level of mastery of standards.

**Homework**

Homework will be assigned at least 1 night per week. Other nights students are to practice their math facts.

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

For grades 4-12, after any major assessment, students should 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 should be given a minimum of 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.

**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.

Teachers have discretion to determine if R&R opportunities will be given for any **minor assessment**.

**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**

The overarching expectation in this class is RESPECT: respect for yourself, respect for other students, respect for the teacher/or any individual in authority, and respect for any guests that may enter our class. Although this encompasses all other expectations, I will outline several others for the sake of clarity.

1. Always Try YOUR BEST!!! I will not settle for anything but your best!!
2. Have the “I can do it” attitude! Stick To It and Don’t Give Up!
3. Remain SEATED and PREPARED at all times.
4. Bring ALL materials to class DAILY.
5. Every student is responsible for helping to maintain a clean, safe learning environment. Your area must remain CLEAN at all times. The floor should be clear of trash, paper, and personal belongings.
6. Adhere to all policies, rules, and regulations outlined in the student handbook, and Tutt Middle School’s Norms.

**Course Materials**

Composition book

Pencils (mechanical allowed, students provide own lead and erasers)

Loose leaf paper

Coloring utensils (crayons and/or colored pencils)

Pencil case/box to store materials

Glue sticks

Highlighters (yellow, blue, green, or pink)

Handheld sharpener with holder for shavings

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

**My contact information: Email:** [**westoma@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us**](mailto:westoma@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us)

**Dojo messages**: <https://tinyurl.com/MWeston6>

**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: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_