

# Language Arts 6 Syllabus

## English Language Arts 6

*English Language Arts 6* is based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for sixth grade. This course integrates listening, speaking, writing and reading with an emphasis on literary analysis. Students read narrative and informational text and analyze their structure, elements, and style. Vocabulary strategies are taught and reinforced through a variety of literature. Using the writing process and the six traits of writing, students write narrative and expository pieces, such as a personal narrative and an argumentative essay. The mechanics of writing, including sentence structure, spelling and grammar, are taught and reinforced through student writing. Students develop speaking and listening skills by participating in group discussions and oral presentations.

**Textbook - Holt McDougal Literature Online textbook**

**Username and Password will be assigned.**

Students will read a variety of self-selected books throughout the school year. Teachers will work with students and parents to choose appropriate reading selections. In addition, students will read class novels from the following list:

*MS The Cay* by Theodore Taylor

When he and his mother sail on a ship heading to America, Phillip suddenly finds himself stranded on a raft with a black man named Timothy. After he loses his eyesight, Phillip must learn to trust Timothy if he is to have any chance of surviving and being rescued from the small island where they have landed.

*MS Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watson's, an African-American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma Sands in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

MS Author in April book selection

## **Hart Writing Standard**

- All rules of capitalization are followed.
- End punctuation is correct.
- All sentences are written as a complete thought.
- The question is embedded into the answer.
- The correct format is used for the final product (ink, paragraph structure, margins.)

**Rochester Community Schools provides all necessary materials and supplies for curricular classes.**

Parents who wish to supplement these materials and supplies for their student in this class may consider purchasing the following:

- Pencils                      Blue/Black Pens                      Highlighters
- 3 ring binder - can be shared with other classes
- Notebook paper - loose leaf only
- **Composition Notebook or 1 Subject Spiral Notebook (used for their journal)**

**Expectations**

1. Be prepared - have materials/supplies, textbook, and a reading book every day along with completed homework in hand.
2. Use your agenda
3. Listen and contribute
4. Respect others, their space, and their property - this includes the classroom.
5. All assignments will include your full name, hour, and date in the upper right hand corner.

**Participation** - Class participation is important to classroom success.

**Late Homework** - When you have been absent, it is your responsibility to complete any learning that has been missed. Homework must be made up within the RCS guidelines.

**Grades**

- Point values will be given to daily assignments, tests, and projects based on the focus, difficulty of assignment, and accuracy.
- Percentages will be averaged and grades given accordingly to the Rochester Schools grading system.
- Parents should monitor grades through the ParentVUE portal. Directions are available on the district homepage.

**Vacation Policy**

Please check the Rochester Community School calendar and plan vacations accordingly. Students who miss learning because of vacation will be expected to make-up the learning when they return to school.

## **Academic Honesty**

We expect academic honesty in everything. Cheating will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to the following: talking at any time during a test or quiz, copying another student's work, having notes or books open during a test or quiz when not authorized, looking at another student's work during a test or quiz, or presenting another person's work as your own (plagiarism). Any form of cheating will result in a consequence of loss of credit at the teacher's discretion and an office referral.

## **Supplemental Materials for Viewing:**

Throughout the year, students will view a variety of videos that enhance the literary genres studied in class. Viewing is a part of the State of Michigan's Grade Level Content Expectations. The following videos complement our study of genre and will be considered for viewing: *Iron Will*, *Princess Bride*, *Remember the Titans*, *Radio*, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, and *Miracle*. (We do not view all of these videos. These videos are part of the Hart Media Center collection corresponding to our curriculum.)

## **Communication:**

Student success is greatly affected by parental involvement. I strive for open communication. This year I will use a variety of ways to communicate important information. Feel free to bookmark my webpage: <http://mrswolsker.weebly.com/> Here I will update information for each unit of study. You will also find resources and websites that may be beneficial to you and your child. I will also use Remind to send important updates via text. Email is another great way for us to communicate. Feel free to email me at [swolsker@rochester.k12.mi.us](mailto:swolsker@rochester.k12.mi.us). Lastly, my classroom will be using an app called Seesaw. Seesaw is a great tool that will help showcase your child's learning throughout the year. Instructions will come home on how to access your child's online portfolio.

Sixth Grade Language Arts

Sheila Wolsker

# How to Survive Middle School

## A Parent's Guide

Welcome to the beginning of a wonderful year! We look forward to a wonderful partnership as your child begins his/her journey through the preteen and teenage years.

### Words of Wisdom -

1. Have a sense of humor.
2. The word "fine" usually doesn't mean that it is fine.
3. Yes, they actually have work to do at home.
4. Learn to ask the kind of questions that can be answered with more than "good." (Example - "How was school?" "Good." Instead ask, "What was the funniest/hardest/easiest thing that happened today?")
5. Monitor their agenda. Even though they would like their independence, checking their agenda gives you a good idea of their day, the amount of homework, and their stress level.
6. Writing a paper at home doesn't really take 3 hours and end up as two short paragraphs. Chances are your student is toggling between texting or browsing social media and the assignment. If it is really taking several hours, then please contact us.
7. Just as any skill requires practice so does reading and writing. Students need to practice both at home. Okay, so your next question, "How do I get them to do that?" You encourage them. Provide a quiet place for reading and writing. Make sure they have down time. We will be discussing writing strategies in class that students should practice.
8. Form a partnership with us. Contact us with your concerns or questions. We can't help if we don't know there is a problem. The child we see at Hart is different than the one who comes home and takes his/her frustration out on you.
9. Check out the school website. [www.rochester.k12.mi.us/hart](http://www.rochester.k12.mi.us/hart)
10. Be involved with their life. Get to know their friends.
11. Remember that for those students who have the dreaded rolling of the eyes, it doesn't usually last more than a couple of years.
12. Finally, enjoy these middle schools years!

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\_\_\_\_\_ We have read and discussed the information in the syllabus.  
(Print child's name.)

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Parent Signature

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Student Signature

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Date

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(email)

- Please provide an email where you would like to receive classroom updates.