

MARSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
2023-2024 6th Grade English Language Arts Syllabus
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Welcome to the 2023-24 school year! I have been fortunate enough to have taught English Language Arts at Marston Middle School for the past twenty-three years. I look forward to another incredible year with my new group of students. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions. I am here to support you in any way possible!

Course Objectives, Goals, and Description:

The objective of this course is to support student growth in speaking, listening, reading and writing in English. The students will learn about and engage in a wide variety of genres, such as: narrative, informational, argumentative, response to literature, and poetry. Students will be guided to select books that fit their zone of proximal development and will be asked to complete assignments that demonstrate the completion of 150 minutes of independent reading per week. Students will deliver focused, coherent presentations which convey ideas clearly and speak to the audience in our classroom, both individually and collaboratively. Students will also study the meaning of specialized vocabulary terms and use them in context in their writing.

California Common Core State Standards:

The ELA content standards to be addressed are vocabulary development, reading comprehension, writing strategies, written/oral language conventions, and listening and speaking strategies. Content standards can be accessed at: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/finalelaccsstandards.pdf>

ELA Pacing Guide (Subject to Change)

2023-24 Curricula and Critical Concepts at a Glance:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uG3v_WNr6Y5P5JAK3BOqrzOcy9x8G3ymL1IND3JjuU/edit?usp=sharing

Classroom Behavior Standards and Consequences

Classroom standards and consequences are clearly posted in the classroom, have been reviewed with the students, and follow school policy. It is recognized that for learning to be effective, it must occur in a positive environment where

students do not feel threatened by others. Students are to understand that must respect all people, and not interfere with the learning process. Inappropriate behavior may result in consequences, such as: a warning, parental contact, lowering of the citizenship grade, lunch or after school detention, or referral to the office. Positive consequences include: an excellent citizenship grade, rewards for good behavior, increased privileges, as well as positive parental contact.

Citizenship grades are as follows:

Exceeds (E)	Meets (M)	Below Meets (U or I)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always prepared with a charged Chromebook, charging cord and headphones • Respectful to others • Challenges themselves routinely in class • Routinely volunteers to answer questions • Routinely participates in class discussions • Assists and encourages other students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always prepared with a charged Chromebook, charging cord and headphones • Respectful to others • Focused on assignments • Often volunteers to answer questions • Often participates in class discussions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often tardy • Does not come prepared to class • Frequent late assignments • Uses inappropriate language • Disrespectful to others • Misuses class supplies

Homework Goals and Expectations

Students are assigned class work every day. All work not finished in class becomes homework. Students will be assigned additional work to be completed solely at home. Work should be neat, complete, and on time for full credit. Students are expected to write down class work and homework each day in their agendas.

Grading Policy and Practices

Students earn their grades by completing a variety of assignments, including online assignments (i.e., Amplify), handouts/graphic organizers, writing projects, notes pages, class participation, and Key Learning Assessments. Students are expected to participate in classroom activities and in-class assignments.

Students will be graded on a *point basis*. Students will not be graded on a curve. On major assignments all students are expected to turn in A, B, or C level work, or they will be required to redo the work until this level is reached.

A straight scale will be used to determine students' letter grades from the points they have earned.

90% – 100% = A

75% – 89% = B

50% – 74% = C

25% – 49% = D

24% and below = F

Late and Failed Work

Any incomplete or failed assignment may be turned in late for full credit if you turn it in before the current semester ends. After the semester, I cannot accept late work for any assignment that was given during the prior semester. Therefore, for S2, you may turn in any assignment late for full credit if that assignment was given during the S2 grading period, but S1 work is no longer accepted. You may not ask me for help on late work during class, as we will be working on our current class lessons. You may come to my after-school tutoring for help with late work or help with any current class assignments.

Attendance/Make-up/Tardy:

Attendance is crucial to good performance in class. Absent students are expected to turn in assignments no later than two days after their return and are expected to make-up all missed work. It is the responsibility of the student to make up any missed work and tests.

Students will be considered tardy if they are not in their seats, prepared for class, when the bell rings.

Suggested Classroom Materials:

Pencil/Pen

Notebook

Highlighter

Planner

Laptop and Charger

Tutoring Opportunities

You can access our daily assignments and homework on Google Classroom. Students can request makeup work if needed and attend afterschool tutoring on Wednesdays from 2:40pm – 3:30pm for extra help. Feel free to email with any questions about your child's progress in my class.

