



6th Grade Language Arts & Science



Mrs. Leary

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Dear Sixth Grade Students and Guardians,

Welcome to sixth grade! I am looking forward to an exciting and engaging year in sixth grade language arts and science. Entering the middle school can be a big transition for both students and parents. My goal is to help make this transition successful for all.

Classroom Expectations

Students should come to class prepared with all materials needed. Our classroom environment is one that fosters respect, responsibility, productivity, and creativity.

Science

The sixth grade focus in science is on Earth Science. During this school year our topics will include:

- Nature of Science
- Astronomy (Seasons, Moon, Planets, Stars, Galaxy, Universe)
- Plate Tectonics
- Earthquakes
- Volcanoes
- Atmosphere & Weather
- Engineering (Egg Drop Project)

We will use the *Issues & Earth Science* textbook, which is part of the SEPUP science curriculum. The SEPUP curriculum is both issue oriented and inquiry based. In addition, we will utilize the *Science World* magazine.

Grading

Labs/Projects/Tests 40%

Quizzes 30%

Classwork 20%

Homework 10%

Language Arts

This year in language arts, the sixth graders will:

- increase their communication skills through reading, writing, speaking, and the study of the English language
- use a variety of thinking strategies to understand, analyze, and create text for personal enrichment, inquiry, and problem solving
- collect, analyze, and cite specific evidence to formulate questions, construct arguments, make decisions, and reinforce thinking

We will read a variety of books during that span multiple genres throughout the year. The students will utilize whole class novels, short stories, book clubs, and literature circles.

Our writing units this year will cover narrative, informational, argumentative/debates, persuasive, and poetry.

Spelling & Vocabulary Book (Zaner Bloser- *Spelling Connections*)

Students will complete two pages from one unit each week. Six words from the list will be chosen and a vocabulary quiz on those words will be given on Friday.

Independent Reading/AR Tests

Each sixth grader will be required to take a minimum of two AR tests each trimester on books that they have read independently outside of classroom required reading. In addition, they are required to do a minimum of one book talk per trimester. Arbookfind.com is a great resource to check AR book levels and/or help find a book to test on.

Grading

Homework 20%

Participation & Classwork 15%

Spelling/Vocabulary 20%

Tests/Quizzes 20%

Essays/Speeches 25%

Homework

Homework will be given on a regular basis. It is intended to support the learning being done in the classroom. Homework should be completed fully and on time to allow continuity with class activities. Homework that is turned in late will result in a deduction of points for that assignment.