

GRADE 6 ELA UPDATE

"Today a reader; tomorrow a leader." - Margaret Fuller

April 2017

APRIL'S CLASSROOM FOCUS

Sometimes as our children grow into adolescents, their propensity for arguing becomes greater. Cleaning rooms, putting away dishes, finishing homework, and just plain reading can become a battle.

During these last months of the school year, we will be digging into the genre of argument and taking a closer look at how good arguments are made. We will discuss

what makes a good claim and how we support it with logical reasons and sound evidence. We will learn that we must explain our reasoning when trying to make our point so others will listen to our position.

We will evaluate arguments for their use of supporting evidence and ensure that we understand the point of view or purpose an author makes towards a subject. And ultimately,

we will begin constructing our own arguments using our own claims, reasons, evidence, and explanations.

Also, throughout April, our students in grades 3-8 will be taking part in ELA MCAS testing. Thank you for supporting their efforts, as this data is critical as we continuously improve instruction to meet the needs of all learners.

EXTENDING THE LEARNING AT HOME

Take advantage of the argument your child may make at home and turn it into a learning opportunity. When your son or daughter asks for something, ask them for reasons and evidence as to why it might be beneficial. When he or she complains about cleaning the bedroom, let them

know that you ask them to do these chores not to "bug them" but for valid reasons. Perhaps the health (reason #1) of the family is at risk because the eight fungus filled food dishes under the bed could attract bugs (evidence). Along with that, the safety (reason #2) of anyone

walking into the room is in jeopardy because anyone could trip over the clothes, Legos, and other toys strewn throughout the room. Pointing out the logic to your "real-life" argument reinforces the components of the academic arguments we are composing in class.

Reading Recommendations

<i>The Mysterious Benedict Society</i> by Trenton Lee Stewart	Gr 6
<i>Be a Changemaker</i> by Laurie Ann Thompson & Bill	Gr 7
<i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> by Mark Twain	Gr 8

*April: MA ELA State Standards

- RI.6.6. Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and explain how it is conveyed in the text.
- RI.6.8. Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.
- W.6.1. Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

*Other ELA/Reading standards are addressed during the month of April as well.

If you have any questions about WPS' ELA/Reading Curriculum, please contact Chris Tolpa, Supervisor of Humanities:

c.tolpa@schoolsofwestfield.org

413-642-9318