

GRADE 6 ELA UPDATE

"The art of communication is the language of leadership." - James Humes

September 2017

SEPTEMBER CLASSROOM FOCUS

As we welcome our students to middle school, our teachers will focus on getting to know them, and assist them in making the transition into sixth grade. We realize at this point in a child's life, who they will sit with at lunch is far more important than returning completed emergency cards.

In our grade 6 Literacy class, we purposefully begin trimester one with

narrative writing. This type of writing allows us to explore fictional characters along with ourselves. In order to write fiction, we must look at models of fiction. We can talk about the character traits we value while evaluating the actions of characters in our readings. Reading literature allows us to explore human society. It asks us to build empathy for things we may not currently

understand and to discover cultures and places we may never have a chance to personally explore.

September in grade six is a month of new beginnings: a time to meet new people, be challenged by a new environment, and get excited to learn new things in a whole different structure.

Thank you for entrusting your students to us.

Reading Recommendations

<i>The Westing Game</i> by Ellen Raskin	Gr 6
<i>Waiting for Normal</i> by Leslie Connor	Gr 7
<i>The Boys Who Challenged Hitler</i> by Phillip Hoose	Gr 8

*September MA ELA State Standards

- RL.6.1. Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what a text states explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, quoting or paraphrasing as appropriate.
- RL.6.3 Describe how the plot of a particular story, poem, or drama unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.
- W.6.3b Use narrative techniques [such as dialogue, pacing, and description] to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
- SL.6.1b Follow rules for collegial discussions, set specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.

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

A COMMUNITY OF READERS CELEBRATION

Our two goals for summer reading are to inspire a lifelong love of reading and to promote and develop literacy skills. This fall, students will meet with teachers and students who read the same book, and they will have a chance to interact and share with one another using their chosen book as a foundation.

There will be no test or project; it will simply be a time to engage with others around reading. If you don't already know, ask your child which book group they are joining.

Community of Readers Celebration Dates:

NMS: October 25, 2017

SMS: November 2, 2017

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A" reads 20 minutes each day	Student "B" reads 5 minutes each day	Student "C" reads 1 minute each day
3600 minutes in a school year	900 minutes in a school year	180 minutes in a school year

1,800,000 words



90th percentile

282,000 words



50th percentile

8,000 words



10th percentile

By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

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

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