

ENGLISH 6 COURSE SYLLABUS

MRS. VANCE, DR. TRUPP, AND MRS. DUMARESQ



Course of Study

Welcome to sixth grade! The sixth grade English curriculum follows a thematic approach. Students will be reading and responding to a variety of literature, to include novels, short stories, poems, and nonfiction, to master several literary and analytical concepts. Listed by each quarter are some possible novels for that marking period.

<i>Quarter</i>	<i>Novel(s)</i>
First	<i>Maniac Magee</i> (Jerry Spinelli) <i>Tuck Everlasting</i> (Natalie Babbitt)
Second	<i>The Forgotten Door</i> (Alexander Key) <i>Black Cauldron</i> (Lloyd Alexander) <i>The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle</i> (Avi)
Third	<i>Holes</i> (Louis Sachar) <i>Taking Sides</i> (Gary Soto) <i>The Secret of Gumbo Grove</i> (Eleanora Tate) <i>Child of the Owl or Dragonwings</i> (Laurence Yep)
Fourth	<i>Max and Me and the Time Machine</i> (Gery Greer and Bob Ruddick) <i>Esperanza Rising</i> (Pam Munoz Ryan)

In addition to reading works of literature, we will be concentrating on improving students' writing by developing both sentence fluency and vocabulary. We will be studying basic parts of speech and proofreading skills such as capitalization, punctuation, and correct word usage.

Also, in sixth grade, students will have an independent reading requirement. Students will select a book from the school media center that they read at least 20 minutes every night. Students will have assignments to complete based on their reading. **Students must carry their independent reading books with them at all times.**

Finally, the writing emphasis for sixth grade reading will be on paragraph writing. Students will need to respond in paragraph form to a variety of questions and prompts. A well-written paragraph should include a topic sentence, supporting details from the text, and a conclusion. Sentence structure and grammar will also be emphasized.

Grades and Policies

In English 6, there will be three kinds of assignments: formative, summative, and practice. Homework for practice will count for ten percent of students' grades. Summative assessments complete a unit of study such as an end-of-unit test, project, or writing assignment. They are an evaluation of all skills, concepts, and materials in that unit. Formative assessments are all the assignments along the way that help to monitor students' progress. They include quizzes, initial paragraphs, and class work.

Grades will be a fair and reasonable reflection of students' achievement. To earn an A on the report card, students must consistently exceed what is considered standard for the course. A C means that students have consistently met the course standard.

Teachers will calculate quarter grades based on the following percentages:

- Formative Assessments 60%
- Summative Assessments 30%
- Homework for Practice/Preparation 10%

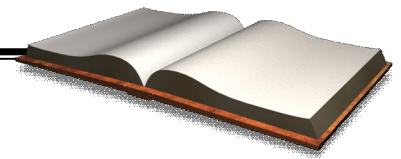
MVMS uses the "raw score conversion to percentage" method to calculate grades. Therefore, the number of points a particular assignment is worth does not impact its weight within a category (18/20 carries the same weight as 36/40); however, teachers may still weight assignments within categories.

English 6 GT will be differentiated by a combination of the texts studied, the processes used for studying those texts, and the work that students produce. Under the Middle School Reform Initiative, there is a continued emphasis on collaborative planning among educators to meet the needs of adolescents as learners and to provide rigorous instruction for all students.

Contacting English Teachers

The phone number at school is (301)840-4660. These are our email addresses:

	Email Address
Mrs. Vance	Cynthia_J_Vance@mcpsmd.org
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Mrs. Dumaresq	Gail_R_Dumaresq@mcpsmd.org



Absences

Much of what is important in English takes place during class. Students should try to avoid absences as much as possible. Work that was due on the date of the absence will be due immediately upon their return.

Late Work

All work for mastery will have both a **due date** and a **deadline**. The due date is the day that work is expected to be turned in; work turned in after this date will lose one letter grade. On the other hand, work not turned in by the deadline will not be accepted and will receive an E.

If students are having trouble getting a major project or essay completed on time, they should let their teachers know **before** the due date so that they can discuss alternatives. Students should not wait until the last minute.

Class Expectations

The MVMS slogan of PRIDE summarizes expectations for students: Positive, Responsible, Individuals, Disciplined for Excellence. Students should consistently be resourceful, respectful, responsible, and ready to learn. MVMS has adopted a system called Positive Behavior Interventions and Support to reward students for good behavior and encourage good behavior throughout the school.

Student behavior that interferes with the learning of themselves or others is unacceptable. Consequences for misbehavior will vary based upon the nature of the offense and might include: warning, student conference, phone call home, lunch or after school detention, or office referral.

Homework

Teachers will assign homework most school days. Students should record homework in their student data notebooks. One of the most useful ways we have to communicate is the student's data notebook. Please check this daily for information. Teachers can also be reached by email (fastest) or by calling the school (301-840-4660). In addition, parents and students should please check Edline regularly to know if students are missing work.

Reassessment

Reteaching occurs when the teacher determines that a student is not meeting learning goals. The teacher identifies an opportunity for a reassessment before the original task, and reassessment will occur within the instructional unit. Only one reassessment opportunity is available per task. The teacher may decide to reassess an assignment partially, entirely, or in a different format. A reassessment grade replaces the original grade.

Summative assessments, which are tasks that indicate a final measure of learning and may not be reassessed, include end of course or semester exams, assessments that end an instructional unit or period of study, final research papers, reports, or essays, and culminating projects or performances.

When reassessment is offered, all students may be reassessed, regardless of the grade on the original task if they meet the following requirements: complete the original task, complete required assignments, and complete reteaching/relearning activities as determined by the teacher.

Grade Updates

Grades entered in a teacher's electronic gradebook are automatically uploaded to Edline on a nightly basis. Both students and parents should log into Edline regularly to check grades and missing assignments. Students are expected to know their grades, and what, if any, work is missing at all times. There should be no surprises about grades; if so, please make sure you contact your teacher. If parents need an Edline activation code, they should please contact our school's Edline Superuser, Alice Marable at alice_marable@mcpsmd.org. In addition, it would be extremely helpful to enter an active email address in both student and parent Edline accounts; teachers use this to provide class updates as well as other communication throughout the year.