

Welcome back! Summer is over and it is time to prepare the young minds for school.  I want your child to be happy and successful in my class and believe that you play a key role. That role is to continually show interest in and support for your child. The child who knows that his or her family is interested in and supports the school program will almost always have fewer problems in school and will enjoy greater success. I believe that communication among parents and teachers is critical in assuring student success.  I am planning and anticipating a year filled with challenge, learning, and excitement.

Enclosed, you will find my class syllabus for this academic year.

**Mrs. Latrise Smith6th Grade Advanced English Language Arts**

Mayport Coastal Sciences Middle School

*Email:* [smithl7@duvalschools.org](mailto:smithl7@duvalschools.org)

*Phone:* 904-247-5977 ext. 206

**Mrs. Latrise Smith**

**6th Grade English Language Arts/Advanced**

**Syllabus 2019-2020**

**Mayport Coastal Sciences Middle School**

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**Course Objective:** This course will follow the Language Arts and Reading Enrichment core curriculum set by Duval County in the 2019 - 2020 Curriculum Guide. This guide will direct student growth and performance aligned with each of the Language Arts Standards for the State of Florida (LAFS), Benchmarks and Common Core Standards. In following this schedule, our goal as Language Arts/Reading instructors is to teach, analyze, emphasize, and discuss reading and writing skills; which will later enable students to become more motivated, confident, and successful in literacy altogether.

**Language Arts:** Students will strengthen their critical thinking, reading and writing skills through active reading, analysis of literature and informational texts, writing prompts, and collaboration amongst peers to understand text deeper through whole/small group discussions. Students will also annotate, and question text using the Super 6 Strategies (making connections, predicting and proving, questioning, summarizing, inferring, and visualizing) promoting higher order thinking and better preparation for state and district based assessments.

**AVID Strategies:** The AVID curriculum, based on rigorous standards and aligned directly to Common Core, is driven by the WICOR method, which stands for **writing**, **inquiry**, **collaboration**, **organization,** and **reading**. AVID strategies will be in all content-areas (language arts, math, science, and social studies).Students will learn organizational and study skills (use of Cornell notes), work on critical thinking and asking probing questions (annotate, and question text using the Super 6 Strategies), get academic help from peers and college tutors, and participate in enrichment and motivational activities that make college seem attainable. As students’ progress in their study and use of AVID strategies, their self-image improves and they become academically successful leaders and role models for other students.

**Teaching Philosophy:** Through my instruction, neither the background, nor the neighborhood or the color of any one of my students’ skin will act as the deciding factor hindering his/her educational fate. Here at Mayport Coastal Sciences Middle School we embrace the cultural diversity of each student while working to build knowledge, scaffolding on the personal foundation of each student. It is important to show students that they too can succeed in whichever endeavor they choose to embark upon. Once this course comes to an end, students will discover that their possibilities are excessively never-ending, as well!

**Weight of Classroom Grade:**

**Language Arts 1st 9wks**  **Language Arts 2nd-4th 9wks**  
**Classwork 40% Classwork 40% Summer Reading 10% Achieve 3000 35%**

**Achieve 3000 35% Performance Task/Reading Logs 15%**

**Warm Up/Exit Tickets 15% Warm Up/Exit Tickets 10%**

**25 Book Requirement (completed through Home Learning)**

**Interactive Notebooks:** Language Arts Students are required to keep a composition notebook which counts as part of students’ quarterly “written work” grade. These notebooks will primarily house classwork, including daily warm-ups, notes, rough drafts and final drafts of essays, collaborative activities, etc.

**Home Learning:** Students are required to read for at least 20-30 minutes each night (Monday – Friday) and complete reading log to practice fluency and comprehension skills experienced in class, in addition to other assigned tasks including unfinished class work. In addition, students will be required to complete two Achieve Articles of their choosing. **Students will complete two articles in class and two at home for a total of four.**

**Materials:** *English Language Arts:* Composition notebook, 3 ring binder, college rule loose leaf paper, highlighters, pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, **green ink pens and blue/black ink pens (pens to use in class).It is the expectation that all Mayport Coastal Sciences Middle students will have one 3- inch binder and seven tabs (one for each class). The school binder is expected in every class every day.  This AVID strategy has been implemented to better assist student organizational skills as well as teacher, parent, and student communication. Please support our class by uploading your Staples receipt to** <https://www.staples.com/classroomrewards/parent> **(put zip code: 32233, FL, Mayport Middle School then Latrise Smith)**

**Grading Scale:**

90 – 100 A

80 – 89 B

70 – 79 C

60 – 69 D

59 and below F

**Rituals and Routines:**

1. Student IDs must be worn around neck with a lanyard at all time.
2. Students must come prepared to each class period (on time with required class materials).
3. Students will follow classroom CHAMPS.
4. Upon entering the classroom, students should check board for daily warm-up, opening instructions and daily activity for class period.
5. Students should sharpen pencils and collect class set materials.
6. Students will end all discussions and out of seat movement once the bell has rung to begin class.
7. Students are dismissed by my instruction, not the school bell or announcements.
8. Students will pack up their belongings (clean up their area) and line up quietly before structured movement to their next class.

**Classroom Management:**

**CHAMPs**

* **Conversation** should be limited to comments and questions directly related to the subject being worked on during the mini-lesson. Side bar conversations are not acceptable during this time. When answering questions wait to be called on. DO NOT shout out answers. You may ask either of your side partners for help before asking the teacher.
* **Help** will be given as students let Mrs. Smith know where there is need for clarification. This is the time to listen to instruction and ask questions that will enable you to understand the work.
* **Activity** will be limited to coming in taking out pens and notebooks, starting on warm up, listening to instruction, giving feedback, and asking questions so you will be able to complete the independent work related to the mini-lesson.
* **Movement** will occur when you raise your hand to ask a question. Students should remain in their seats unless otherwise directed by Mrs. Smith during the mini-lesson. Please do not interrupt this time of instruction to ask to go to the library or the restroom. Students should go to the library/restroom before coming to class. No student will be allowed to leave the classroom during the first and last 15 min. of class. **Trash will be saved until 5 minutes before the bell. DO NOT throw trash across the room and** **DO NOT get out of your seat to throw away trash. Teacher will dismiss the class not the bell. Stay seated until told to leave.**
* **Participation** is happening if you are listening to the instruction, asking questions related to the lesson, writing notes as directed by Mrs. Smith, and offering constructive feedback for clarification and help to others.
* You are NOT participating if you are not engaged in the mini-lesson, if you are not listening to instruction, if you are sleeping or doing work from other classes.

**Make-Up Work Procedures**

Make-up work for excused absences:

* Proper documentation must be submitted in order for an absence to be considered excused
* One day per excused absence will be given for completion of missed assignments
* Student **must** confer with instructor to determine the due date for their make-up work
* Daily quizzes cannot be made up
* Tests will be made up on Wednesdays **before** school

*Rationale:*

Students who miss class due to severe circumstances *with* proper documentation will be able to submit their assignments - *without* penalty. These students will be given the same amount of time to complete their assignments as the students who were present (one day per absence is allotted). It is the responsibility of the student to ask any clarifying questions regarding the missed assignments, in doing so they will be able to submit make-up work on time. Any worksheets missed will be available in our homework box. The due date for these assignments will be decided after consulting with the instructor. Quizzes *cannot* be made up, solely because they assess homework readings or other tasks assigned for homework. Make-up test days will be before school on Wednesdays. The test date will be arranged for a Wednesday that works for both the teacher and the student. As far as projects go, students will present their project the day of their return. A supplemental assignment will be created if the student misses the project all together.

**Late work and unexcused absences:**

* Student is responsible for checking the class website and homework box for missed assignments
* Projects turned in after the due date will receive a 70%
* Daily quizzes cannot be made up
* Tests will be made up when the student returns to school

*Rationale:*

Any student who misses an assignment due to an unexcused absence or just fails to turn in their work, fall under this make-up category. Just as the excused absences, students are responsible for finding out exactly what they missed. Homework assignments that are to be written by hand (i.e. reading logs, drafts, etc.) will receive no higher than 70% acting as the highest achievable grade (70 out of 100) after the due date. Projects that are not turned in on their due date will receive no higher than 70% acting as the highest achievable grade (70 out of 100). Quizzes cannot be made up solely because they assess homework readings or other tasks assigned for homework. As far as tests missed by these students, they *can* be made up upon the students return to school. If the test is not made up on that particular day, the score will go into the grade book as a zero.

As a **Safety Net** for the 2019-2020 school year, students may utilize Achieve 3000 to reinforce skills taught in class. Students may complete an extra article for each article that they do not complete with a 75% or higher. Make up articles must be completed within three days of the failed article. Students may also receive extra points by passing an Achieve Article with a 100%. The required grade for an Achieve Article will be 88%. If a student makes a 100 then the extra 12 points will be added on as extra credit.  
**WE RESPECT EACH OTHER**

**During each class period:**

1. Show me the same respect that you expect me to show you,
2. Be respectful of the thoughts, opinions, and property of each of your classmates and any guest who comes into our class,
3. Come prepared to class.

**Justification for my “Rule of Three”:**

***Rule 1*** asserts that in order to get anywhere in my classroom, my students and I, must have respect for each other. In having this rule first, students can begin to presume that I do mean business. This rule will be practiced from day one all the way to the end of the school year.

***Rule 2*** continues with respect, but goes further to say that without the respect of fellow classmates and any guests that may arrive, things won’t go as smoothly as they should either. Without an ounce of respect for someone and their property (thoughts and opinions included) communication is unachievable. Lewd, vulgar, derogatory, and explicit language **will NOT be tolerated in my classroom, NO EXCEPTIONS.**

***Rule 3*** entails all the essentials necessary to succeed in my class: notebook paper, pens/pencils, textbook(s), cell phones out of sight, undivided attention to the speaker for the day, and an open mind for lots of individual and group intellectual discoveries.

*Consequences* for disregarding any of these three rules are strictly enforced as followed:

**1st offense:** verbal warning

**2nd offense:** remain after class to have a short conference with me

**3rd offense:** phone call to parent or guardian

**4th offense:** referral to school administrator

**After school detentions are possible consequences after multiple verbal warnings.**

**Please detach the next page and return to Mrs. Smith**

**by August 30, 2019**

**Thank you- Let’s have a great year!**

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have read over Mrs. Smith’s syllabus on

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and understand the rules and policies she has set in place for the 2019-2020 school year. I plan

to follow her rules and policies enabling all students in my class to enjoy learning the curriculum set for

my 6th grade year.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_