

September 6, 2018

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Student and Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to 6th grade **English Language Arts** in Room 11!

6th grade is an important time for young minds. It's a time when students begin to express themselves and develop their own unique identities. To help support student growth during this formative age, our ELA class seeks to not only reinforce the language mechanics learned in elementary school but to also introduce students to new ideas and perspectives through literature and teach students how to effectively express their thoughts and opinions.

Over the course of the year, students will create an Interactive Notebook, which will compile their assignments and creative work in one place. To this end, please make sure students bring to class a **ruled notebook**, preferably a three-subject notebook with hard plastic cover, such as those of the Five Star brand. Colored pencils, glue sticks/bottles, and other supplies are recommended as well. I also encourage students to bring a book to read in case they have extra time in class.

Here is my grading scale:

|   |         |   |
|---|---------|---|
| A | 90-100% | <b><u>KEEP THIS SHEET<br/>IN YOUR BINDER!</u></b> |
| B | 80-89%  |   |
| C | 70-79%  |   |
| D | 60-69%  |   |
| F | 0-59%   |   |

Students in this class will be evaluated based on two components:

50% of grade – Proof  
50% of grade – Practice

**Proof**: This includes tests, projects and formal writing tasks.

**Practice**: This includes all assignments done in class or as homework. Students should record all unfinished assignments in their Agenda Planners. Those who are absent should check for make-up work on the class blog

([http://blogs.4j.lane.edu/smith\\_sh/](http://blogs.4j.lane.edu/smith_sh/)) and in the missed assignments basket. See me if you have any questions. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOU!**

Participation and behavior will be reported in the practice portion of the grade. I will track this progress with participation points. Students earn points for positive behavior such as volunteering answers and opinions, assisting others, and generally being awesome. Students lose points for being off-task, unprepared, or disruptive. Three minus points in one class period may result in a referral. Think of it like this:

- Does what I'm doing help or hinder my learning?
- Does what I'm doing help or hinder other students' learning?
- Does what I'm doing help or hinder Mr. Smith's ability to teach?

I use the StudentVue/ParentVue Synergy program to post online grades, which will be updated on a biweekly basis. The system is a great way for families to monitor academic progress, but it occasionally requires patience due to my workload, which also includes parent communications, planning, and providing feedback.

Late Work: Daily work is due on the next school day. Big assignments and projects are due on the due date, unless an extension is agreed upon by the teacher and the students or extended time is an accommodation granted to the student.

I look forward to working with you all. If you have any questions or concerns, please email ([smith\\_sh@4j.lane.edu](mailto:smith_sh@4j.lane.edu)) or call (790-6461) any time.

Sincerely,  
Shaun Jiro Smith

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_