



# Grade 6 English 2016 - 2017

## Course Expectations

Ms. Brenda Armentrout, Ms. Molly Beach, Ms. Clare Kuzma, Ms. Sarah Lewis

Students will be challenged to explore their own unique qualities in a middle school environment. Students will study English skills through several thematic units. Each unit focuses upon reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, language, and literature. Writing, a major focus, stresses the four intents: informative, persuasive, narrative, and explanatory. Students will apply the six traits of writing: ideas and development, organization, voice, word choice (diction), sentence fluency (syntax) and conventions. Reading and analyzing literature is another major focus of all English classes. In addition, students will have opportunities to use technological tools for writing, research, and oral presentations. The study of language, through grammar and vocabulary, is an essential part of the English curriculum. Essential questions and common tasks (assignments) define each unit. Highlights of the units follow:

### Course Overview

Unit of Study	"Big Picture"	Possible Anchor Texts
<b>Foundations</b>	Students analyze how experiences and relationships are essential to building foundations.	<i>Maniac Magee</i> <i>Tuck Everlasting</i>
<b>Adventures</b>	Students study how adventures often result in personal discovery and change.	<i>The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle</i> <i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i>
<b>Challenges and Barriers</b>	Students explore the complex nature of challenges and how an individual's experience and relationships influence how he or she faces obstacles.	<i>Miracle's Boys</i> <i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i>
<b>Artistic Choices</b>	Students examine the choices they make and the consequences that follow.	<i>Various Short Stories,</i> <i>Poems, and Visual Art,</i> <i>Shakespeare excerpts</i>

### Student Support

We are available for help as needed. Please speak to your individual English teacher to make arrangements to come in for help. You must have a pass to attend a help session during TAP or lunch; your teacher will provide you with a pass when you make an appointment.

### Absences

You are required to complete all work missed due to absences. Refer to the Student Handbook concerning "What to do when you miss class". You should call a study buddy and check Edline to find out what was assigned. Then talk to your teacher upon your return to class to make arrangements for making up work.

## Behavior Expectations

You are expected to be an active and respectful participant in the learning environment based on behavior expectations stated in the student handbook and 6<sup>th</sup> grade team management plan. Here are your English teachers' top five behavior expectations:

**1) Be on time:**

All attendance and disciplinary policies for Rosa Parks Middle School as outlined in your student handbook will be followed. Attendance and tardiness will be noted daily. Students should always be in class on time. The first few minutes of class are often the most important!

**2) Be a positive member of the class:**

As a student in English class, you are a member of a learning community. We expect students to be engaged in class and behave appropriately. Classroom disruption will be dealt with through teacher, student, parent, counselor, and/or administration contacts as appropriate. No student has the right to prevent learning from occurring in the classroom.

**3) Be respectful of others:**

Manners count. It is expected that everyone will act with the appropriate decorum. You are expected to participate by following the classroom procedure of raising your hand and then being called on to share. Treat your teacher and classmates with respect at all times.

**4) Be prepared to learn:**

The following items are required of each student for every class meeting: 3 ring binder with paper, pencil, blue or black ink pens, one red or colored marking pen, one highlighter, class novel (if appropriate), and assignment book. Students will also be expected to maintain an English section in their binder. Please keep all assignments in this section at all times. Please do not discard any assignments. Students will also maintain an interactive notebook (spiral/composition book) which will be kept in the classroom. With the integration of new technology in the classroom, students may want to bring their own ear buds to use in all classes.

**5) Be responsible:**

You are responsible for your own learning. If there is something that you do not understand, make sure to ask questions. Take pride in your work by completing it to the best of your ability and turning it in on time.

You are your own best advocate. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to pick up your missed work from the appropriate location in the classroom, and to complete the missed work within an appropriate time frame. Please ask me if you have any questions regarding assignments.

## Reaching us

We can be reached via e-mail if you have a question or concern. Typically, we are able to respond more quickly to an e-mail message than to a phone message. Should you or your parents need to speak with us, you may reach us through the main office's telephone number: 301-924-3180.

Ms. Brenda Armentrout:

[Brenda\\_K\\_Armentrout@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Brenda_K_Armentrout@mcpsmd.org)

Ms. Molly Beach:

[Molly\\_Beach@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Molly_Beach@mcpsmd.org)

Ms. Clare Kuzma:

[Clare\\_L\\_Kuzma@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Clare_L_Kuzma@mcpsmd.org)

Ms. Sarah Lewis:

[Sarah\\_F\\_Lewis@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Sarah_F_Lewis@mcpsmd.org)

## Grading and Reporting in English (2016-17)

**Overall:** Grades will reflect individual achievement of MCPS Content Standards for a specific marking period. Grades will also reflect teacher use of a variety of assessment measures. Graded work will be scored as follows:

100-90%	A
89-80%	B
79-70%	C
69-60%	D
59-50%	E
0%	No attempt or past the deadline; may not redo

Grades will be recorded using percentages, with the lowest grade being 50% for an assignment that meets minimum standard. **Minimum standard is defined as any attempt that is relevant to the assignment.**

### Types of Assignments:

<p><b>Homework for Practice and/or Preparation</b></p>	<p>10% of quarter grade</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignments in this category will be graded for completion only and may be given as homework or classwork. These assignments will be related to the curriculum, and are intended to give students practice with important skills or concepts. Students will be given accurate and helpful feedback.</li> <li>• Assignments in this category will be graded for completion and scored on a scale of 100%, 75%, 50%, or 0% (i.e. on a 10-point assignment; 10 = completely finished or good faith attempt; 7.5 = more than half but not totally completed 5 = half completed; 0 = no attempt to complete or less than half completed)</li> <li>• Assignments in this category cannot be reassessed.</li> <li>• Homework will be reviewed in class so that students can make corrections to their papers. In this case, the due date and deadline for the assignment will be the same.</li> <li>• <i>NOTE: Some homework assignments will be graded for accuracy and will be entered into the Assessments category. There may also be occasions when students need extra time to complete classwork assignments. These will also be entered in the Assessments category.</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>MS Quarterly Assessments</b></p>	<p>10% of quarter grade</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will take county quarterly assessments that will account for 10% of their overall grade.</li> <li>• County assessments cannot be reassessed, and include both a reading comprehension and writing section.</li> </ul>
<p><b>All Other Tasks and Assessments</b></p>	<p>80% of quarter grade</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessments will be graded for accuracy and the teacher will provide feedback.</li> <li>• Assessments will be included in the grade to indicate mastery of course objectives.</li> <li>• Assessments may include class work, quizzes, tests, writing assignments and individual work on group assignments.</li> <li>• Some assessments can be reassessed. Teachers will state in advance which assignments can be reassessed.</li> <li>• Assignments will be weighted by their importance, i.e. a test or project will count more points than a one period class assignment.</li> </ul>

### Late and Missing Work:

- Each assignment will have a **due date**. This is the date that it is expected students will submit the assignment.
- A student's grade will drop **one letter grade (10% of the grade)** if the assignment is not turned in on the due date.
- Each assignment will have a deadline. The **deadline** is the last day an assignment will be accepted for a grade. Work not submitted by the deadline will be considered missing. Missing work will be recorded in the gradebook as a "0." The usual deadline for assignments will be **three school days** after the due date. If the deadline will be less than three days, the teacher will inform the students ahead of time and explain the rationale behind it.
- For assignments in the "**Homework for Practice and/or Preparation Category**" that will be reviewed in class on the due date, the deadline will be the same as the due date. Therefore, the assignment will not be accepted for late credit.

### Reteaching and Reassessment:

- Teachers will state in advance which assignments can be reassessed. Per county policy, teachers will provide at least one reassessment opportunity to students in each marking period. Assignments may be retaught and re-assessed until the end of a lesson sequence.
- The student is responsible for completing any re-teaching activities that the teacher assigns before being reassessed. Students seeking additional assistance are welcome to make an appointment for assistance during TAP, lunch, or after school, per teacher availability.
- The original student work, along with teacher comments and/or the rubric must accompany revised work in order to be graded.
- When an assignment is reassessed, the second score will take precedence over the first. Only one reassessment opportunity will be offered per assignment.
- When tasks/assignments are reassessed, they may be reassessed partially, entirely, or in a different format, as determined by the teacher.
- Assignments in the "Homework for Practice and/or Preparation" category cannot be reassessed.

### Gradebook Symbols for Excused, Late, and Missing Work:

Symbol	Meaning
<b>X</b>	A student is <b>excused</b> from the assignment. An <b>excused</b> grade will not affect the student's average.
<b>Z</b>	Indicates that the assignment was not turned in by the due date. Work with the grade of a " <b>Z</b> " can be turned in until the deadline. If the student fails to turn in the assignment by the deadline, the assignment will be recorded as a <b>zero (0)</b> . A " <b>Z</b> " grade will be entered for assignments collected while a student was absent from school. This is a reminder to the student to get the assignment turned in by the modified absence due date.
<b>0</b>	Deadline for turning in the assignment has passed and the student can no longer turn in the assignment for credit.

**Extra Credit:** There will be no extra credit in accordance with MCPS policy.

**Communication:** Edline, Report Cards, student conferences, parent conferences, phone calls and emails to parents.