

ELA
2017-2018 School Year
Grade 6

Message from the Teacher

Our ELA curriculum focuses on different parts of language including writing, speaking and listening. The students will be expected to build on concepts taught in previous years, as well as gain new knowledge about how to be an effective writer. The class will consist of grammar mini-lessons, mentor texts, and various writing assignments. We are firm believers in ‘the more you write, the better you will become.’ Not all writing assignments will be taken to a final ‘published’ state, but every assignment is important and creates a stepping stone in becoming a better writer. The last and most important thing is to READ, READ, READ! Voracious readers become better writers.

Communication

Communication is key to your student’s success! Please feel free to contact us through phone, e-mail, or your student’s planner. Your student’s daily planner will occasionally contain comments or concerns. Please take time to review your student’s planner on a daily basis.

Course Description

To be a successful and contributing member of society, one must be able to communicate effectively, whether it is through writing, speaking, listening, or any other form of communication. In this course, students will learn how to do this with the help of grammar lessons, a wide variety of writing assignments, and a few projects along the way. Students will see what good writing looks like through the use of mentor texts. They will also learn that their “rough draft” is not their final copy. Students will learn to edit their writings to make them ‘turn-in’ worthy.

Student Textbooks & Materials

No current textbook

Materials are found from various sources. Everything your child needs to be successful will be copied or written within their writer’s notebook.

Required Student Supplies

It is imperative that students adhere to the Nitschmann COLOR CODED supplies outlined in our sixth grade supply list. This is a tool for teaching organization.

Major Course Objectives

1. Students will be able to write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence. (Persuasive Writing)
2. Students will be able to write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content. (Informative Writing)
3. Students will be able to write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences. (Narrative Writing)
4. Students will be able to respond to a selected piece of literature. (Response to Literature)
5. Students will be able to produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Major Projects

Narrative
Informative
Persuasive
Response to Literature

Teacher Homework Policy

The Bethlehem Area School District Board policy states: "Homework is expected to be completed by students outside the school day and can count as much as 10-25% of the student's quarterly report grade." Please make time in your daily schedule to provide an atmosphere that is conducive for your child to study, and help him/her schedule and implement study time. Homework is designed to give meaningful activities that will reinforce classroom concepts. Homework will be given as the teacher feels necessary. Points will be deducted from a student's homework average if an assignment is late or incomplete. Even when there may be no "formal" homework assignment given, students should read daily and review concepts that were covered in class.

Students are to write their assignments in their planner.

If your child is absent, it is the student's responsibility to find out what work was missed upon his/her return. You may request missed work by e-mailing the teacher. Please allow 24 hours for the teacher to gather the missed work.

Teacher Grading Policy

Assignments and grades are available on the Home Access Center (HAC). We encourage you to check the HAC periodically. Grades are issued at each quarterly marking period. Current school year marking periods are listed in the BASD calendar, available on the district website (www.beth.k12.pa.us) Students will receive a final grade at the conclusion of each quarter.

Numerical Grade Equivalents for letter Grades

A+ = 97-100	B- = 80-82
A = 93-96	C+ = 79-77
A- = 90-92	C = 73-76
B+ = 87-89	C- = 70-72
B = 83-86	F = 69 and below

Classroom Management Plan

The classroom teacher has a Classroom Management Plan that includes a list or description of expected student behaviors and/or prohibited student behaviors within the class and consequences for failing to adhere to the procedures. The classroom teacher will manage the consequences for students who violate the classroom regulations outlined in the teacher's Classroom Management Plan.

Student Expectations

1. Be here...be ready to learn
2. Be respectful
3. Be responsible
notification
4. Be actively engaged in learning
5. Follow instruction the first time
6. Follow all classroom procedures

Consequences

1. Verbal Warning
2. Student-Teacher Conference
3. Teacher Detention - parent
4. Parent/Guidance contact
5. Code of Conduct Referral

Extra Help

The student is responsible for his or her academic and behavioral success. I am available from 7:45-8:05 A.M. on selected days to assist your child. If your child is in need of assistance beyond the classroom, he/she should make efforts to communicate with the instructor to determine how to best meet his/her individual needs in a timely manner.

Extra help and work time is offered on the days listed below or any other day by appointment.

Extra help is available from 7:45-8:05 A.M. **It is the student's responsibility to use the Extra Help Calendar to sign-up for after school extra help.** Extra Help Calendars are located in each academic teacher's classrooms.