**DEERLAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**ADVANCED LANGUAGE ARTS - GRADE 6**

**MR. NATHAN WILLIAMSON**

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*Welcome to Language Arts*! I am very excited about all the wonderful things we are going to learn this year. We will be focusing on skills and strategies to improve performance on the Florida Standards. We have a busy year ahead. I am looking forward to working with your children. I hope we all have an excellent year!

# Grading Scale Citizenship Grades\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

100-90 A 4 - Outstanding

89-80 B 3- Satisfactory

* 1. C 2- Needs Improvement
  2. D 1- Unsatisfactory

59 and below F

# Grading Policy

Grades will be based on: 1. Assessments, Book Reports, and Final Drafts of Writing 70%

1. Graded class work, homework, and prewriting activities 30%

Tests and quizzes with a grade less than 70% are allowed to be retaken ***once***. This will allow students to bring that grade up to a mastery level of 70%. Student grades will be updated on Gradebook at least every two weeks. In Gradebook if there is a blank, it indicates that the assignment has not be graded yet; it does not indicate a zero.

# Homework

Homework will be assigned to reinforce lessons taught during class. Vocabulary lessons, vocabulary flashcards, studying for vocabulary tests, book reports, and completing writing assignments are some of the activities students will need to complete at home when necessary. Homework is not always **written work**. A homework task might be to read, write, work on a project, or to study. Many students feel that, unless they have to write something, they don’t have homework. Students can expect homework 2-3 times a week. Students should read at home every day for ***at least 20 minutes***.

# Literature/Reading

The goal is for the students to use the reading process effectively and understand the common features of a variety of literary forms. Instruction and assessment will include reading skills and various literary styles. Students will be reading from Holt McDougal Harcourt (HMH) *Collections* text. The textbook is online and students will be given usernames and passwords to access the online text. *Books are available upon request*. Please note that supervised viewing of the internet for educational purposes is an integral part of the course.

# Speaking and Listening Skills

All students are expected to be attentive and respond appropriately. The students will have many opportunities to practice their speaking skills in informal settings such as class discussions, reading aloud, and sharing ideas. We will also have formal activities such as oral presentations. Later this semester, the students may choose to participate in the Tropicana Speech Contest and the classroom and school-wide Spelling Bees.

# Vocabulary

Appropriate grade-level vocabulary practice will be given throughout the year. We will use a variety of sources to provide applications. Students will also be studying roots and affixes. It is recommended that a dictionary be available to the student at home, as some homework assignments will draw upon dictionary skills as well as definitions.

# Writing

The writing process of pre-writing, composing, revising/editing, proofreading, and publishing will be applied. All final/publication copies must be printed from a computer or neatly written in black or blue ink – no pencil or gel ink or writing on the back of the paper. Writing will be evaluated for focus, organization, support, clarity, word choice, sentence variety, and mature command of language. The conventions of writing will be taught. These writing strategies will parallel the assessment areas for the FSA. A packet of resource papers will soon be issued; it will be used for reference all year long. Writing skills must have a much higher level of sophistication in middle school. Students will be expected to strive to be better writers.

**Policy for Late Work:** During the school year, late classwork and homework will be accepted. However, half credit will be given. For projects, book reports, and writing assignments, ten percentage points will be deducted *per day.* This will remain in effect all year. Book reports will be due quarterly on an assigned Tuesday; there will be 10 points deducted each day it is late. After Friday the book reports will not be accepted. NO NAME work will be accepted with no penalty during first semester at the student’s responsibility of claiming it and heading it. Beginning second semester, NO NAME work will receive half credit, while tests, projects and book reports will be deducted ten percentage points.

**Policy for Absences:** Leon County Policy states: Students who have been absent and are excused are given the privilege of making up work. The length of time within which work may be made up shall be determined by the extent and nature of the absence. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain and complete all makeup work. Students are responsible for making up tests and assignments in a timely manner. Before or after-school passes/appointments can made for makeup assignments, tests or extra help.

# Rules and Class Procedures

Students are expected to be considerate of their classmates and to follow all school and 6th grade student rules, including dress code. Ideally, we should all contribute to a positive classroom environment. Parents will be notified of intrusive behaviors. Failure to adhere to school and county rules may result in a lowered citizenship grade, detention, and a referral to the school office. **The Honor Code** will be strictly enforced. Cheating, plagiarism, or dishonesty of any type will not be tolerated and will result in a zero.

**Classroom Expectations: Be Punctual, Be Polite, Be Prepared, Be Productive, and Be Positive!**

# Class Supplies: Students should bring the following to class every day:

# #2 Pencils Highlighters (two colors)

3-ring section of a binder with five tabbed dividers Notebook paper

Blue or black pens Student Planner

Index Cards (at home) Reading Book

**Notebook Organization (please label your tabs with the bolded titles)**

This parent letter goes in the front of the binder before the dividers

1**. Bell Work/Language** 2**. Vocabulary** (lists, lessons, tests) 3. **Classwork** 4. **Book Reports/Projects**

5. **Writing**

**Mr. Williamson’s wish list: Please help to provide one of the following for our Language Arts classroom: tissue, paper towel, antibacterial wipes, extra notebook paper, pencils, colored pencils and candy for occasional treats, or grade level literature books that you are willing to donate. Thank you so very much!**

Please sign below to indicate that you have read and understand our class policy and procedures:

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

Mr. Williamson’s Student Information Sheet

**Period:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home Address (include zip code): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mother’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Father’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(or guardian’s)

Mother’s Father’s

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student lives with: (check one) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mother and Father

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mother

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Father

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grandparent

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Other family situation

Who should I contact in an emergency? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent e-mail address(es):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Does your child have internet access at home? \_\_\_\_\_Student’s Birthday \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What does your child like to do in their free time? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What is your child’s favorite subject? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Any special concerns? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **Date** | **Time** | **Number Called** | **Comments** |
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Powerpoint and other supervised internet presentations will also be used in class. By signing and returning this form, you give permission for your child to participate in supervised viewing of the internet for educational purposes in this class.

# Qualities of an Outstanding Citizen

1. Follows class procedures and school rules.
2. Is respectful of and cooperative with teachers and peers.
3. Is helpful and kind to classmates.
4. Is not tardy.
5. Positively interacts with others during class activities.