

WELCOME TO MS. HANCOCK'S 6TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS!

This class is designed to teach a variety of language skills, including reading, writing, grammar, speaking, and listening. I love what I teach, and I hope my students also find activities that they enjoy throughout the course of the school year. This handout explains expectations. Please read the information carefully and keep it for future reference. Sign and return the attached receipt as soon as possible.



CULTURE OF READING:



GCS uses the American Reading Company (ARC) framework in middle school language arts to create a culture of reading. Students are individually evaluated within the first month of school to determine/confirm their independent reading levels. Information regarding the skills and learning targets for their levels will then be sent home. Students will be doing a significant amount of independent reading both in and outside of class to meet those learning targets and experience growth. Grade level text as well as books at students' independent reading levels, if above or below grade level, will be used on a daily basis.

READING LOGS:

GCS students are expected to read independently outside of school at least 30 minutes each day, at least 5 days a week, and reading logs will be provided for students to document how many minutes they read both in and out of class. Logs will require parent signatures and count as homework grades. If reading homework of any kind is assigned for any class, the time spent reading for that assignment may count toward reading log time. Reading is reading!



Why Should Your Child Read At Home? The Data Shows:

Student A

30 minutes per day
5400 minutes per school year
2,700,000 words per year
90th percentile on tests

Student B

5 minutes
900 minutes per school year
28,200 words per year
50th percentile on tests

Student C

1 minute per day
180 minutes per school year
8000 words per year
10th percentile on tests

To become better at any activity, sport, or hobby, practice is essential to improve performance, and reading is no different! Daily reading builds stamina and word knowledge and helps students become better readers and writers in all subjects. The more you read, the more you know!

LIBRARY VISITS:

Students visit the library every other week to check out books. Students may check out up to three books at a time, and they should always keep at least one book with them during core classes every day. Students with overdue books will not be able to check out additional books until the overdue books are returned or paid for.

GRADES:

Every graded task is assigned a category, and categories are weighted as noted below to calculate an average.

- **Tests/Projects/Major Assessments** – 50% of grade
- **Classwork** – 40% of grade
- **Homework** – 10% of grade (Students should expect to have daily homework in language arts. Homework is designed to practice reading/writing skills being taught in class or prepare students for what will be taught the following day. Homework is NEVER given as busy work. If it is assigned, it has value and a purpose.)

DUE DATES:

Work is expected to be completed and turned in on time. Each student will be allowed to turn in two late homework assignments per quarter when unforeseen circumstances occur, with no penalty. Occasionally it may be announced to the class that late work will not be accepted for a particular assignment. This will only happen when an assignment is necessary preparation for an activity on the following day that would no longer be relevant after the activity is completed. For projects and major classwork assignments, late work will result in a deduction of points for each day late, as ample preparation and completion time will always be provided for such assignments. All late work must be submitted within 3 days of the due date. Please note that late assignments may not be graded as quickly as other assignments.

ABSENCES/MAKE-UP WORK:

If an absence is planned, please ask for work in advance. When unplanned, please ask for work as soon as possible. With 24 hr. notice, work can be left in the office for parent pick up or sent home with a sibling. Work is not considered late when students are absent for assignments. All make-up work should be turned in within 3 days of a student's return to school, except in the rare case of an extended absence.

If you have questions or concerns, send me a message on ClassDojo, email me at: hancoci@gcsnc.com, or call the school at 674-4280. I look forward to working with you throughout the year!

Thank you,

Julie Hancock

P.S. If you have not already messaged me about your child, please do so. Tell me anything you want me to know! It can be as long or as short as you think is needed, but you are the expert on your child and how he/she learns, thinks, reacts, socializes, etc. I look forward to getting to know each student, but this initial information really helps get started. Thanks so much for taking the time to do this!

