

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts

### Miss Nelson and Mr. Forgac



*"Write to be understood, speak to be heard, read to grow." ~Lawrence Clark Powell*

#### **Contact Information**

Miss Nelson  
jnelson@austintownschools.org  
(330) 797-3900 Ext: 2318

Mr. Forgac  
bforgac@austintownschools.org  
(330) 797-3900 Ext: 2321

**You do not need to wait until conference night for an update! You can contact us at any time! We can schedule a phone conference, or feel free to email us with questions.**

#### **ProgressBook**

Make sure to log in regularly to check grades and missing assignments. **We encourage you to talk with your student first, then email or call us if you still have questions and/or concerns about graded assignments.** Contact the main office with questions about signing into ProgressBook.

#### **Falcon Nation**

Download the Falcon Nation app onto your smart phone, and join our class group for updates on homework assignments, quiz/test dates, and photos. Search "Groups" for **NelsonForgac 6th ELA**. You can also access Falcon Nation via computer on our district website at [www.austintownschools.org](http://www.austintownschools.org).

#### **Class Website**

Please visit our class website at [www.nelsonlangarts.com](http://www.nelsonlangarts.com) where you will find a plethora of information and examples that will help support you and your middle school student while working at home. You can also access our class website on the AMS page at [www.austintownschools.org](http://www.austintownschools.org).

#### **Google Classroom**

**Ask your child to show you his/her language arts Google Classroom at least once per week. Google Classroom can be accessed on ANY COMPUTER through your child's Google account.** A weekly agenda, as well as assignments and resources, will be posted there. Students will also be able to submit some assignments through Google Classroom. Although paper copies will still be available, Chromebooks will be used in class, as well as at home for classwork and some homework. This is a fantastic tool for parents/guardians to stay up to date with what we are doing in class.

## **School-Wide Expectations**

Be Respectful. Be Responsible. Be Positive. Be kind.

## **Classroom Expectations**

1. Have ELA binder, charged Chromebook, earbuds, pencil, & independent reading book every day.
2. Enter and leave room calmly and quietly.
3. Follow directions quickly and accurately.
4. Silent during transition times.
5. Problem-solve!
6. Stay on task. (FOCUS).



## **Inappropriate Behavior**

**Students are expected to protect the #1 priority, which is for teachers to be able to teach and for students to be able to learn.** Any behavior that obstructs the #1 priority will result in a behavior slip. As per school rule, 3 behavior slips per grading period = 1 detention before or after school.

## **Tardy to Class**

**Students have 3 minutes to travel between classes.** They must be in our classroom and ready to go before our classroom door is closed. As per school rule, 4 tardies per grading period = 1 detention before or after school.

## **Hall Passes**

**It is important for students to be in the classroom in order for them to learn.** Therefore, students will have 3 hall passes per grading period. A hall pass can be used for the restroom, water fountain, and/or locker. (A separate pass will be issued for the clinic. Trips to the clinic will not count as part of the 3 hall passes.) If there is a medical reason your child needs to use the restroom or water fountain more frequently, please notify the clinic and provide proper documentation.

**As needed, we work with individual students on planning restroom breaks according to their schedules; we encourage parents/guardians to do the same.** It can be an adjustment from having the teacher taking them for scheduled bathroom breaks to having to plan this out themselves. It may take a week or so for students to adjust to planning out their own restroom breaks, but they will.

## **Prohibited Items in the ELA Classroom**

- Cell phones and other electronics. (They must be turned off and kept in locker.)
- Drink bottles. (They can keep one in their locker and drink between classes.)
- Food, candy, and gum.
- Bags: bookbags, gym bags, large purses, etc (If a folder can fit inside, it is considered a bag.)
- Toys, fidget cubes, slime, or any other item that might distract students.
- Mechanical pencils are strongly discouraged. They will be banned if issues occur.

## Grading Scale

<b>A</b>	<b>100-90%</b>	<b>I have mastered the content. I can teach others.</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>89-80%</b>	<b>I understand most of the content. I need to practice a little more.</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>79-70%</b>	<b>I understand some of the content. I might need a little help.</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>69-60%</b>	<b>I understand little of the content. I need help.</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>59-0%</b>	<b>I do not understand the content at this time. I need help immediately.</b>

## Grades

Grades will be reported in ProgressBook under the following categories: Reading (R), Writing (W), Organization/Responsibility (OR), Speaking/Listening (SL), Vocabulary (V), Homework (HW), and Grammar (G). Grades will come from quizzes, tests, writing samples, digital assignments, binder checks, homework, reading logs, and independent reading activities.

**All graded work will be kept in the language arts binder until the end of each grading period.** Please check the binder frequently to see what your child is learning and how he/she is progressing.

**It is the responsibility of the student to keep track of his/her assignments.** Students will be provided with blank calendar pages to use, or they can purchase their own planner. Weekly agendas with due dates will also be accessible on Google Classroom for language arts class, as well as posted in our Falcon Nation group.

**Students will need to develop an organizational strategy for transporting papers to and from school; AMS does not provide take-home folders for students.** We recommend that each student use a pocket folder solely for transporting homework and important papers to and from school.

## Homework

**Homework will be assigned throughout the week.** Each homework assignment is worth 3 pts:

3 pts. = 100% complete; excellent effort; AND turned in on or before due date.

2 pts. = 50% complete; fair effort; AND/OR 1 day late.

1 pt. = 25% complete; poor effort; AND/OR 2 days late.

0 pt. = 0% complete; no effort; AND/OR not turned in.

**Incomplete homework will need to be completed during a lunch session after 2 days of being late.** Students will eat their lunches in our classroom while completing their homework.

**Students are also expected to read for 20 minutes nightly.** We have close to 5,000 books in our classroom library. Research shows that reading "Good Fit" books for a minimum of 20 minutes outside of the school day greatly improves a child's reading automaticity, fluency, and comprehension. (Books are considered a "good fit" if a student can read 90% of the words and comprehend 90% of the content. Ask your student to read a page of the book aloud and ask him/her to answer some basic comprehension questions to help determine whether or not the book is a "Good Fit.")

## Independent Reading

**Free choice, independent reading is an important component of our language arts program.** Students will record their books and respond to what they read as part of the 40 Book Challenge. (Every 100 pages counts as 1 book.) Students should read a balance of fiction and nonfiction in a variety of genres. Research shows that independent reading makes a significant difference in academic achievement, not only in reading, but in all subject areas. **Please help your child develop good reading habits and set aside time at home for daily reading. They are required to bring a book home nightly to read; the book should come back to school each day.**

## Make-Up Work/Absences

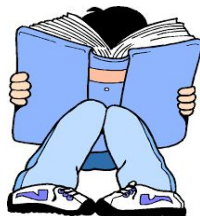
**Work is to be completed within the number of days absent.** (Ex: 2 days absent = 2 days to complete make-up work.) Please note that it is difficult to replicate our daily lessons when students are absent, as our lessons are rich in teacher modeling, cooperative group/partner work, and discussion. When your child is absent, he/she misses out on the hands-on aspect of learning. Depending on the day he/she misses school, your student may need to do make-up sessions during lunch to learn what was missed. (One 65 minute class period = two 30 minute lunch periods.)

**Research shows that there is a high correlation between good attendance in school and positive academic achievement. A 3% improvement in attendance (only 5 more additional days in school per school year) can significantly impact academic grades and achievement on standardized tests.** It may only seem like a day here or there, but those missed days add up and can cause gaps in learning. We understand that sometimes absences are inevitable (and we certainly don't want students in school if they are sick), but children need to be in school to learn. To the best of your ability, please avoid scheduling appointments, vacations, etc... while school is in session.

**It is the responsibility of the student to take doctor excuses to the main office upon arrival to school.** Teachers do not collect these items at the middle school.

## Early Excusal

**All requests for early excusal should be directed to the main office.** It is the responsibility of the student to take the excusal request to the main office upon arrival to school. Teachers do not collect early excusal requests, nor do they write passes for early excusal at the middle school.



*"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader."*

~W. Fusselman

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!**