

Magnolia Science Academy 3: 2013-2014

Ms. Andrea Kittelson

Class Website: www.webstacourse.com

Course Title: Grade 6 English

Course Description:

This course includes the study of expository texts and literature, the composition of various forms of writing, and the practice and application of standard writing and speaking conventions.

Additionally, this course emphasizes the importance of critical and creative thinking and research and writing as they pertain to Magnolia's mission and goals.

Course Objective:

To meet the prevailing national, state and school standards, including the State Content Standards and the Common Core, for Grade 6 English Language Arts in order to prepare students for success on exams such as the CST; to ensure great success in middle school, high school, college and beyond; and to facilitate a greater appreciation for the role literacy plays in all aspects of modern life.

Typical Activities:

- Read silently and together for meaning
- Write in a private journal to explore the furthest reaches of your own personal capacity
- Study grammar and mechanics using a consumable workbook, handouts and/or other materials
- Build vocabulary
- Write and revise essays in the following genres:
 - Persuasive
 - Narrative (Myth, Fiction, Autobiography, Biography)
 - Expository (Compare/Contrast, Problem-Solution, Informational Article)
 - Literary Response and Analysis
 - Research Report
- Participate in teacher-facilitated, student-led literature circles
- Participate in Writers' Workshop to create writing to be published in the literary journal *Magnopia*
- Test knowledge and critical and creative thinking skills via multiple-choice, free-response, cloze exams, and in-class, timed-write essays
- Divine creative works that demonstrate high-order thinking, ingenuity and presentation skills
- Create and perform class songs, chants and poems
- Other

Grading Breakdown:

Point-Based System in Grade 6

Because my goal is to help students develop a strong work ethic; positive classroom engagement practices; powerful reading, writing and thinking skills alongside a variety of test-taking strategies, the points will accumulate and be evenly weighted and distributed among the areas of class work, class participation, homework, essays, exams and projects.

A+ = 98-100%

A = 93-97%

A- = 90-92%

B+ = 87-89%

B = 83-86%

B- = 80-82%

C+ = 75-79%

C = 67-74%

F = 0-66%

Late Policy:

Work may NOT be turned in late. This includes all homework, essays and creative projects. But, in order to offer students the opportunity to still earn an “A” in cases of missed deadlines, **essays and projects** will come with second-chance opportunities. For example, students may write two essays for the price of one without any loss to their grade or do another similar task determined to be equivalent by the teacher.

Exams missed due to absence(s) may be made up, and students will have one day for every day absent. A student that is absent for exactly one day will have one day to make up any missed exam, which means he or she will make the exam up on the day he returns. It is the student’s responsibility to schedule the make-up, and it is best to do so **via email** so there is written proof of the request.

Please visit www.webstacletcourse.com for further information on [grading policies](#) and late assignments.

Also know that I do my best to help students move forward. I am neither mean-spirited nor punitive. ☺

Textbooks and Supplemental Texts:

Texts will include Magnolia-adopted and/or approved anthologies and/or novels and teacher-compiled and created texts and materials.

Class Rules and Procedures:

- Be in your seat and properly engaged at the start of class.
- Be dressed appropriately in proper Magnolia attire.
- Have all required supplies with you at all times (for a complete list, visit [webstacletcourse.com](http://www.webstacletcourse.com)). Typically, these include a binder with lined loose-leaf paper; several plastic sheet protectors for handouts that are to be in your binder at all times; a folder or folders for all handouts; pens and pencils; a covered sharpener; highlighter(s); and tissues.
- Refrain from using personal electronic devices unless prescribed by the instructor.
- Because one fourth of your grade is based on positive class participation, truancy and lethargy, which are antithetical to positive class participation, may negatively impact your grade. Stated another way, if you are on time and on task, 25% of your grade is an “A” – an easy “A.” Luckily, such a state of earnest engagement translates into higher scores on essays, projects, exams and the CST.
- Ask on-topic questions in an appropriate way at the prescribed times. If your questions are not adequately answered during class, feel free to visit Ms. Kittelson in her classroom after school, write her a note that you place in her mailbox on her desk, or e-mail her: akittelson@magnoliapublicschools.org
- No candy, gum, food or beverages are to be consumed by students in class unless otherwise stated. Plain drinking water (not energy drinks) is the only exception.
- Sharpen pencils before class and have covered sharpeners and lead available.
- Use no more than two bathroom passes per semester. Any unused bathroom passes may be turned in for extra class participation points at the end of the semester.
- Additional procedures are outlined on the classroom website: www.webstacletcourse.com

Rewards and Consequences:

Every effort will be made to use positive reinforcement, including group rewards, so that no student is ever sent out of class or is made to suffer a drop in class participation points. My goal is ALWAYS *no referrals, no grades of "F" and lots of significant growth on the CST.*

In case positive reinforcement fails with your child, the following are the official Magnolia list of consequences:

1. In-Class Warning
2. Student-Teacher Conference
3. Detention with Parental Notification
4. Parent Conference
5. Office Referral and Administrative Disciplinary Procedures

SEVERE INFRACTIONS – If the teacher believes that a student’s initial infraction is severe (fighting, stealing, cheating, destruction of school property, etc.) the teacher has the right to immediately send the student to the office with a referral.

Plagiarism:

Make sure your work is your own. Plagiarism is strictly forbidden.

Student and Family Acknowledgements:

Student acknowledgement of receipt of this syllabus:

_____ Date _____

Parent/guardian(s) acknowledgement of receipt of this syllabus:

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____