

Desert Springs Middle School
Ms. Charles' 2022-23 ELA/SS Syllabus

Ms. Charles' 6th Grade English Language Arts and Social Studies Courses

Course Descriptions:

ELA: The 6th Grade English Language Arts Course is an introductory course designed to help students gain an understanding and mastery of reading, writing, listening and speaking skills at the sixth grade level. Students will be reading various informational and narrative texts, building comprehension, understanding main ideas and learning how texts are constructed. Students will build on their basic writing skills to construct sound essays on various topics. Students will present their findings to others, learning how to speak clearly and concisely, and how to debate on different topics. The purpose of this course is to provide students with the skills that will make them successful in their continuing educational endeavors and future careers.

SS: The 6th Grade Social Studies/History Course is a survey of ancient civilizations beginning with Hunters/Gatherers and ending with the decline of the Roman Empire. This course is designed to help students understand how and why civilizations formed and what caused them to succeed and/or fail. The purpose of this course is to provide students with an historical background to our current civilization in the 21st Century. This survey course will enable students to understand the geographic, political, economic, societal, and religious developments that affect our own societies today.

Expectations For All Courses:

Students in these classes are expected to expand upon reading, writing, speaking and research skills already gained from their previous years in elementary school. **It is anticipated that students entering 6th grade should be able to: 1) Write basic sentences correctly, 2) Use correct spelling and grammar (capitals, periods, commas, correct forms of words, correct use of the personal pronoun "I," etc.), and 3) Have the minimum of a 4th grade reading level.** They will continue the process of learning sound communication through writing and speaking, as well as begin the process of historical analysis critical to understanding and interpreting the past. They are expected to come to class on time and complete their assignments in a timely manner. There will be homework in ELA and SS classes. Also, at times, a "flipped" classroom experience will require students to complete something at home before the next class meeting. **Any assignments not completed in class will be considered homework.** Assignments must be turned in **ON TIME** for credit. **LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED - PERIOD!** (See policy regarding absences below.)

Students will be using Chromebooks, websites, and interactive learning tools, as well as paper, pencil, and creative materials to complete assignments. Students must follow proper etiquette (respect, integrity, honesty, etc.) for interactions with others while online as well as during face-to-face classroom time. **Any inappropriate behavior via the computer/internet and/or classroom will have immediate consequences, including but not limited to: warning, phone call home, relocation, lunch detention, Chromebook use restricted, etc.**

Textbooks and Materials:

ELA: California StudySync ELA (online only). Workbooks and online resources will be used in-class as well as at home. This program is designed to create proficient collaborators, readers, writers, and critical thinkers that will prepare them for the future. **Since this curriculum is on-line, internet connections are required at home so that students can complete assignments at home when necessary.**

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Social Studies: IMPACT - World History & Geography (hardcopy and online). Textbooks and online resources will be used in-class as well as at home. Each student has access to a **hardcopy textbook** as well as an **online textbook** - the hardcopy text is kept in the classroom but may be checked out if needed at home. There is a World History & Geography Inquiry Journal Workbook and Weekly Explorer Magazine to go with the textbook as well, both of which will be utilized during the year (and can be checked out for home use if necessary).

Students are expected to come to class *each day* with the following:

1. 2 pencils, sharpened and ready for use. Mechanical pencils are acceptable; however, students must have their own replacement lead for them!
2. One eraser
3. 1 pen: Blue or black ink
4. 3-ring binder with loose-leaf college ruled lined paper (**NOT** a spiral bound notebook please!) and **dividers** to help students keep track of things and stay organized
5. Headphones/earbuds
1. **CHARGED** Chromebook
6. **OPTIONAL:** Washable colored marking pens (no Sharpies are allowed), colored pencils, ruler, scissors, and glue stick.

Grading Plan:

Grades are based on the point system. Each assignment is assigned a point value based on difficulty and importance. Daily work is 10 to 30 points for all courses. Quizzes and larger assignments can range from 10 to 50 points. Tests are 30 to 50 points. Small projects typically range from 20-50 points. Major projects range from 50-100 points. A student's final average is computed by taking the total number of points received divided by the total number of possible points creating a percentage.

For Example:

Unit Test-	You received 88 out of 100 possible points
Section Quiz-	You received 40 out of 50 possible points
Bell Work-	You received 27 out of 30 possible points
You earned:	155 out of 180 possible points.
	$155 \div 180 = .861$ or $86\% = B$

Grading Scale:

A	90-100
B	80- 89
C	70- 79
D	60- 69
F	59- 0

- **Participation (5% of total grade):** Being able to participate in a calm, dignified manner is an important skill to learn, as is working collaboratively with others which teaches students to listen and compromise. It is expected that **EVERY** student will participate every day.
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- **Assignments (20% of total grade)**: Assignments for all courses will be given regularly. Language arts assignments will consist of vocabulary, grammar/writing skills, reading, collaborative activities, and writing projects. Social Studies assignments will consist of vocabulary, Inquiry Journal activities, reading, writing, essential questions, and some creative project-based activities. Typically, ample class time will be given for in-class assignments.
- **Homework (5% of total grade)**: Homework will be given on a regular basis in the ELA and Social Studies courses. If students do not complete their in-class assignments, then it is expected that they will complete them for homework in addition to the regularly assigned homework, and return them first thing the following day to receive credit. **This is the student's responsibility!** Any assignment that is not turned in within 24 hours will receive a zero in the gradebook.
- **Quizzes (15% of total grade)**: Quizzes (including "pop" quizzes) will be given from time to time throughout a given chapter/unit.
- **Tests (25% of total grade)**: Tests will be given at various points in each unit. These consist of on-line assessments in *StudySync*, Unit Tests in School City, as well as through the IMPACT on-line curriculum.
- **Projects (30% of total grade)**: For ELA: Each student will be completing various projects throughout the units in *StudySync*. These projects consist of research, essays, debates and presentations. For Social Studies: Each student will be completing a major project for ***EACH*** trimester: Trimester 1 - Egypt Project; Trimester 2 - Asia Project; and Trimester 3 - Diary Project. Projects are worth **100** points. Therefore, **it is very important that students complete the projects on time and according to the rubrics provided since it will have a major effect on their cumulative class grade for the trimester.** When projects are assigned there will be **some** time provided in class; however, it is expected that students will work on the majority of their projects at home.

Course Policies:

- **Student Work**: All students are expected to read class material, think critically, write effectively, and use complete sentences, proper grammar and correct spelling in every written performance. **Work should be neat and legible. Crumpled, ripped, and/or messy assignments will not be accepted.**
 - **Group Activities**: Students will be working in groups from time to time. It is anticipated that students will be an active member of their group and participation points will be assessed accordingly. Students will always be graded on their *individual* performance in the group.
 - **Prefects**: Prefects are in charge of a group of four to eight (4-8) students for one week. Responsibilities include: Keeping everyone on task, obtaining materials, collecting work, and clarifying instructions and obtaining support from Ms. Charles when needed. This does **NOT** mean that a student cannot speak with Ms. Charles on their own - this is always available to them during independent work time.
 - **Extra Credit**: Opportunities for extra credit will be offered from time to time, and should **NOT** be counted on to improve a grade more than 5%. Extra credit is extra work **above and beyond** the usual assignments/homework to help improve borderline grades, **not work used to cover up missing work.**
 - **Absences**: If a student is absent, **it is their responsibility** to obtain any missed work and return it in a timely manner. All information regarding assignments, projects, etc, can be found in Google Classroom under AGENDA. Agendas are posted every Sunday evening for the following week. Students will also be writing down what they are working on in their own Agendas that will be provided by DSMS this year.
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Classroom Behavior Expectations:

- ***Students are expected to treat the teacher and other students with respect at all times.*** *Offensive language and hatefulness is not acceptable AT ANY TIME - IN CLASS OR OUTSIDE OF IT!* As a guide, I like to use “**Do the Right Thing.**” Students know what is right and wrong and are expected to act accordingly.
 - It is anticipated that students will be in their seats and prepared for class when the bell rings. Being prepared for class means having all materials, books, pencils/pens, etc. out and ready, cell phones silenced and in their backpack, and backpacks hung on the rack located inside the classroom.
 - **CHROMEBOOKS:** Chromebooks will be used in the classroom on a regular basis. Students will not be allowed to charge during class time, but can charge before school and during lunch if they ask. They will need to use their Chromebooks at home as well - so an internet connection at home is necessary! **Should a student misuse and/or damage a Chromebook, they will be responsible for paying for repairs and/or replacement of said Chromebook!**
 - **CELL PHONES:** Cell phone use is not allowed during class time, nor during the school day from the first bell to the last bell of the day. Cell phones are to be either turned to silent mode or turned off during class, and **they must be placed in the student’s backpack** (not kept in a pants/shirt/jacket pocket!). **If students do not follow cell phone procedures, it will be confiscated and a parent/guardian will be notified to retrieve the cell phone from the front office.**
 - Students are expected to **PAY ATTENTION** - Talking while the teacher is instructing or while other students are presenting will not be permitted. It is anticipated that students will listen the first time directions are given - if for some reason a student misses some information or does not understand some instructions, they should ask their Prefect for clarification during independent work time. (Each group of 4-8 students will be assigned a Prefect - a student who will be in charge of their group for the week). If there is still some confusion, the Prefect will then ask for clarification from Ms. Charles **OR** the student may ask during independent work time.
 - **Statement for Academic Dishonesty:** Academic honesty is expected in ALL courses. Cheating will not be tolerated. Consequences may include: Reduction in grade on assignment, zero grade on assignment/test, repeat the assignment, or other consequences as deemed appropriate. Academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students, the school counselor, and parent/guardian, and an Incident Report will be made.
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Please make sure this page is signed and the requested information provided.

Have your student **return just this page** to Ms. Charles - *This is their first assignment that will go into the gradebook and is due by August 17, 2022!*

Please keep the remainder of the syllabus at home so that you can refer to it as necessary. A copy can also be found in Google Classroom.

I have read and understand the requirements for Ms. Charles' English Language Arts and Ancient Civilizations Social Studies courses.

Student Name

(First and Last - *please print*): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name

(First and Last - *please print*): _____

Parent/Guardian

Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian: Please fill in ALL the information below to facilitate school-to-home communication.

U.S. Mail: Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone: () _____

Text: () _____
