

Mr. Villegas
6th Grade English
Room E-5

Email: oscar.villegasherrera@sbcusd.k12.ca.us

Course Syllabus

Course Description:

Welcome to middle school English! In this class students will blend the skills of collaborating, reading, writing, critical thinking, creating, and communicating in order to improve their critical thinking and literacy skills. This year students will be introduced to argument. Students are expected to follow and evaluate arguments and claims in text and in their own writing rather than opinion. Students will also be given the opportunity to broaden their experience and knowledge of the world through diverse text and gain an understanding of multiple perspectives. The main goal of this call is integrating the skills of reading and writing across genres as these skills transfer beyond the sixth grade English classroom.

Course Format:

I expect students **to come prepared to class everyday** with the materials needed to complete the daily activities (***paper, pencil, binder, etc.***) Students that come to class prepared and with all the required materials spend less time on class distractions and can start activities quickly. Students are also expected to follow the classroom expectations that will be establish withing the first week of class and reinforced through the academic year. If students have a hard time following the expectations the behavior support system will be followed. This includes seating changes, referrals, parent contact and lower grades in class (from not being on task). Positive consequences include, class celebrations, parent contact, good grades, and less homework (more accomplished through being on task). Below are example of expectations that we will come up with:

- All students must bring their materials to class each day.
- Be safe, respectful, and responsible at all times.
- Be on time.
- Complete YOUR work (No copying)
- Be helpful.
- Use technology appropriately.
- Take care of our school property.
- Keep our classroom clean.

Grading Policy:

Grades will be posted every two weeks onto Aeries. The grading will fall into the following categories:

- Summative = 50%
- Formative = 30%
- Learning Task = 20%

Grade scale:

A: 90-100%

B: 80-89%

C: 70-79%

D: 55%-64%

F: 0-54%

Cell Phone Policy:

Cell phones need to be turned off and stored properly during class. The school policy is that cell phones need to be kept off and out of sight for all purposes outside the classroom during lunch and passing periods, and while on campus before and after school. ***If a student is perceived to be using their phone, they will be given one warning. The second occurrence will result in the phone being confiscated by the teacher until the end of class or school day (per teachers discretion). The third offence will result in the teacher confiscating and checking the phone into the office for parent pickup.***

Participation Policy:

Participation is key to being successful in an English class. Students are expected to actively participate in activities, group work, and class discussions. Students will have an equitable opportunity to participate in class activities.

Attendance and Tardy Policy:

English skills build on each other so it is extremely important that students are in class every day and on time. If students miss class for any reason, it is their responsibility to see me for any missed work the next class session. It is my expectation that all students will be in on time and in their seats by the time the bell rings to start.

Restroom Policy:

Students are encouraged to use the restroom before class or during break. If a student has an **EMERGENCY** and needs to use the restroom during class, they must sign out, return to class as soon as possible, and sign back in when they return.

Behavior Management System:

Students misbehaving or being defiant will be subjected to the behavior management policy set in place in the classroom on a case-by-case basis. First offense will result in a verbal warning. Second offence will result in a behavior reflection form and a short conference with the teacher. Third offense will result in detention and a phone call home. Fourth offense will result in referral and contact with the office. The policy is set in place in an attempt to reduce the amount of misbehaviour in the classroom.

Homework Policy:

Homework will be given periodically throughout the week (between 3 to 4 times per week). Students are expected to work independently on their homework and bring it in the following

day. If students do not complete the homework, late work is accepted for partial credit within 2 weeks after the due date.

Make-Up Work Policy:

All students have the opportunity to make up any assignment that was not turned in. Late assignments need to be turned in within 2 weeks of the due date and will receive a deduction of up to 25%. All assignments can be made-up for full points, as long as the student has provided corrections on the assignment.

Contacting Me:

If for any reason (students or parents) need to contact me at oscar.villegasherrera@sbcusd.k12.ca.us I will attempt to respond within a day if emailed is received before 2:30 pm, but realistically, it might take up to 2 days.

Instructional Philosophy:

I believe that all students have a right to an equitable education. I will provide this in the English classroom by appropriately differentiating for students with different needs. I also believe that it is my responsibility to develop my students' awareness beyond the classroom by incorporating diverse reading materials and encouraging deep and critical classroom discussions. I want to develop a student's ability to think critically and develop a passion for literature.

Student Contact Info.

Please complete the following information below in the event that I need to contact you.

Student Name (First & Last)	Period
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Parent or Guardian #1 Name (First & Last)	Relationship
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Home Phone	Cell Phone	Email
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Parent or Guardian #2 Name (First & <u>Last</u>)	Relationship
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Home Phone	Cell Phone	Email
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Please sign below to acknowledge that you have read and understand the information outlined in this handout.

Parent or Guardian Name	Parent or Guardian Signature	Date
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Student Name	Student Signature	Date
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Parents/Guardians—Please share any information about your student that may be beneficial for me to know in order to help them learn to their maximum potential. This may include health concerns, stressful situations, learning challenges or strengths or anything else important or interesting that you would like me to know about your child. Please continue on the back of this sheet or on another sheet of paper if you need more room.

