



**Instructor: Ms. Breanna Scott 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

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**Phone: 972-421-1982** *Please ask to speak with the necessary instructor.*

**Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 12:10p-1:10p**

**\*Email is best form of communication; Please allow 24-48 hours (max) for a response on weekdays.**

#### **COURSE OVERVIEW:**

ELA: Students will focus on Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing using multiple texts. Students use metacognitive skills to comprehend text with increasing depth and complexity.

The English Language Arts and Reading Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) are organized into the following strands:

- **Reading**, where students read and understand a wide variety of literary and informational texts.
- **Writing**, where students compose a variety of written texts with a clear controlling idea, coherent organization, and sufficient detail.
- **Research**, where students are expected to know how to locate a range of relevant sources and evaluate, synthesize, and present ideas and information.
- **Listening and Speaking**, Students listen and respond to the ideas of others while contributing their own ideas in conversations and in groups.
- **Oral and Written Conventions**, Students learn how to use the oral and written conventions of the English language in speaking and writing.

The standards are cumulative--students will continue to address earlier standards as needed while they tend to standards for their grade level. In their next grade level, students will engage in activities that build upon prior knowledge and skills to strengthen their reading, writing, and oral language skills. Students will be expected to read and write daily.

#### **\*Novels we will read are: - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

1. *The Outsiders* – S.E. Hinton
2. *Refugee* – Alan Gratz
3. *The Giver* – Lois Lowry
4. *Dreambender* – Ronald Kidd
5. *The Skin I'm In* – Shannon Flake
6. *Ms. Marvel Volume 1: No Normal* by G. Willow Wilson and Adrian Alphona (*graphic novel*)

#### **\*Novels we will read are: - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

1. *Orbiting Jupiter* – Gary D. Schmidt

2. *Wanting Mor* – Rukhsana Khan
3. *All the Broken Pieces* – Ann E. Burg
4. *Inside Out & Back Again* – Thanhha Lai
5. *Enrique’s Journey* – Sonia Nazario
6. *Illegal* – Eoin Colfer & Andrew Donkin

Novels we will read are: **\*8<sup>th</sup> grade**

1. *The Marrow Thieves* – Cherie Dimaline
2. *How Dare the Sun Rise* – Abigail Pesto
3. *Monster* – Walter Dean Myers
4. *Long Way Down* – Jason Reynolds
5. *Night* – Elie Wiesel
6. *Maus* – Art Spiegelman

*\*Parents we are recommending purchasing copies for your scholar. However, PDF versions of books 1-3 will be available for scholars.*

**SUPPLIES:**

Each student must be prepared each day with the following materials:

- 1 Small dry erase board
- Dry erase markers
- Highlighters (any color) & writing utensils
- Agenda/Notebook (to keep up with assignments)

**VIRTUAL SUPPLIES/EXPECTATIONS:** While virtually learning students are expected to have consistent access to the following:

Stable *Wi-Fi Connection*

School issued *Chromebook* or another approved computer/device (phones/tablets are strongly discouraged)

*G-Suite*: students will be able to access and submit class documents via Google Docs and Google Slides

*Schoology*: All news, updates, and class materials will be posted here. This is also how students will need to communicate with teacher.

*Zoom* with microphone and camera access: Students are expected to be physically present on Zoom at all times.

Each nine weeks, grades in ELA will be determined by the percentage of total points earned in the weighted assessment categories below.

Category	Weight
Classwork/Participation	20%
Homework	10%
Formative assessments	30%
Summative assessments	40%

**Grading Scale and Grade Point Scale for Secondary (Grades 6-12)**

*The grade scale at all Uplift Education Middle School campuses is as follows:*

Raw Score	Letter Grade	Grade Points (for credit classes only)
97-100	A+	4.0
93-96	A	4.0
90-92	A-	3.7
87-89	B+	3.3
83-86	B	3.0
80-82	B-	2.7
77-79	C+	2.3
73-76	C	2.0
70-72	C-	1.7
69 and Below	F	0

**Summative assessments:**

A summative assessment measures a scholar’s level of mastery of the knowledge and skills acquired over a given unit.

In each unit of study, we will be working towards a large goal. To demonstrate understanding of the unit’s objectives, scholars will complete a summative assessment of some kind at the end of each unit. Scholars will be assessed through either unit tests, projects, essays, etc. Summative assessments can vary based upon what is felt to be the most appropriate way to measure content learned in any given unit.

**Formative assessments:**

A formative assessment is a frequent measure of a scholar’s progress throughout a unit to identify what adjustments to teaching need to be made to ensure every scholar reaches a mastery level of the knowledge and skills being acquired.

In each unit of study, we will be working towards a large goal. To ensure that true learning is taking place with every scholar, formative assessments will be performed often and in many ways. Examples of the different forms of the unit’s objectives, scholars will complete a summative assessment of some kind at the end of each unit. Examples of the different approaches to formally assess scholars are quizzes, exit tickets, “do nows”, and check for understandings. Formative assessments can vary based upon what is felt to be the most appropriate way to measure content being learned in any given unit.

**HOMEWORK, LATE WORK, AND ABSENT WORK:**

**Secondary Division (Grades 6-12) Homework Expectations:**

Scholars are expected to spend the maximum number of minutes on homework, excluding nightly reading as follows:

Grade Level	Amount of Homework Per Night (excluding nightly Reading)
6 <sup>th</sup>	60 -75 minutes
7 <sup>th</sup>	75– 90 minutes
8 <sup>th</sup>	90 – 100 minutes
9 <sup>th</sup>	100 – 120 minutes
10 <sup>th</sup>	120 – 150 minutes
11 <sup>th</sup>	150 minutes – 170 minutes

Our homework guidelines were determined from guidance from reliable research on the proper amount of homework for scholars per night (Barkley, 2006; Cooper, Robinson & Patall, 2006; Olympia & Andrews, 1994)

**Homework Policies:**

- Assigned independent reading shall not exceed an additional 30 minutes/night (Grades PK-5).
- There should be no homework over winter break
- Teachers shall conduct appropriate mid-project checks
- Grade level teacher teams will coordinate homework across the grade level in order to be consistent with homework administration and collection
- Project due dates, test dates, and extra-curricular activities/performances will be communicated to families in advance from each campus each month

In the event that homework is consistently exceeding the guidelines for your child, please contact your child’s teacher to share your concern and set up a time to meet either in-person or virtually. Scholars and parents/guardians may obtain information about homework expectations through the school’s websites, email, newsletters, and at Back-to-School Night.

**Treatment of Academic Dishonesty**

If a scholar is suspected of plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty, the following procedure will be followed:

- The scholar’s paper, exam, test, quiz, or assignment will be confiscated by the teacher.
- The paper, exam, test, quiz, or assignment will be submitted to an administrator for consideration.
- The scholar will be required to meet with the teacher and a Campus administrator for review of the scholar’s work and, if found in violation of this policy and the Uplift Scholar Code of Conduct, receive appropriate consequences in line with the severity of the offense. These may include:
  - Formal Choice Management Referral write-up

- Grade reduction on plagiarized work
- Re-do of plagiarized work
- Counseling and attendance at Academic Integrity Roundtable with the Dean of Scholars
- Completion of community service hours
- Enrollment in academic probation

Severe instances of plagiarism or academic dishonesty may lead to suspension or expulsion.

**Reassessment Policy (Grades 3-12)**

Across all Uplift campuses, scholars should be given access to reassessment. The intent of this policy is to provide scholars with additional opportunities to demonstrate mastery of the content.

**Reassessment Expectations**

Scholars that score below mastery (80%) will have the opportunity to take reassessments at all Uplift campuses to improve their grade up to an 80%. Certain assessments may be excluded from the reassessment policy, through a joint decision of the teacher and his/her campus leadership team. The ICS should explain how teachers and campus leadership teams craft communications around assignments that are not eligible for reassessment or use a different reassessment policy. Final exams and Uplift common assessments do not have opportunities for reassessment.

For any given assessment, providing at least one reassessment is required. After that, it is up to the discretion of the teacher and administration.

**Reassessment Timeline**

Campuses will determine when opportunities exist for scholars to retest. Scholars may be required to attend tutorials, complete test corrections, or perform other tasks prior to retesting, as expressed in the Individual Campus Supplement. Quarter grades, *including* all reassessment grades, shall be finalized by the deadline for completing grade verification sheets.

**Test Format**

The reassessment must cover the same material, or objectives, as the original assessment. However, the test or assignment may be in a different format or have new questions. The Individual Campus Supplement contains campus specific guidelines about the test format.

**Communication to Scholars and Parents**

The reassessment policies in the individual campus supplement should be shared with scholars and parents at the beginning of each school year. Teachers should communicate and plan for the retest within a reasonable time period after the teacher notifies the scholar of a grade eligible for reassessment.

**Additional Guidelines for Reassessment**

Campuses may determine additional guidelines to further specify the implementation of the reassessment policy.

-----**READ HERE AND COMPLETE AGREEMENT**-----

*Scholar Agreement:*

*I have read the class syllabus, and I understand the guidelines and policies. I understand that if I have any questions, I will proactively reach out to my teacher to clarify any concerns that I have regarding my learning.*

*Parent Agreement:*

*I have read the class syllabus, and I understand the guidelines and policies. I understand that if I have any questions, then I will proactively reach out to my child's teacher to clarify any concerns that I have regarding my child's education.*

Please fill out the following Google Form to acknowledge that you and your scholar have read and understand the syllabus.

Link: <https://forms.gle/LNvDpkFGTWvuYypQ7>