

Springfield Scholars Program



6th Grade – Communication Arts & Social Studies Syllabus

“A Look at the Rest of the World”

Meredith Wisniewski – Scholars Instructor

(417) 414-0116

mwisniewski@spsmail.org

Course Description

“Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.”

~Martin Luther King Jr.

This 6th grade course will be an integration of communication arts and social studies curriculum. The communication arts curriculum will focus on analyses and interpretations of literature, reading, writing, and the conventions of language. The social studies curriculum will focus on world history, including the origins of major world religions. Goals for the year will include both communication arts and social studies grade-level expectations.

The special needs of profoundly gifted students will be met through an assortment of methods including: acceleration of pace, increased depth and complexity of study, curriculum compacting, independent studies, cross-curricular studies, and enrichment activities. Students will be encouraged to reach the highest levels of Bloom’s taxonomy of thinking skills: evaluation, synthesis and analysis.

“If you would understand anything, observe its beginning and its development.”

~Aristotle

Course Objectives

The following concepts will direct our studies:

- develop and apply skills and strategies to comprehend, analyze, and evaluate different genres of literature from a variety of cultures and times
- develop and apply skills and strategies to the reading process
- apply a writing process in composing
- compose well-developed text using standard English conventions including capitalization, punctuation, and parts of speech
- write effectively in various forms and types of writing
- develop and apply effective listening skills and strategies
- develop and apply effective speaking skills and strategies for various audiences and purposes
- develop and apply effective skills and strategies to analyze and evaluate oral and visual media
- understand continuity and change in the history of the world
- connect the principles and processes of different governance systems
- understand the development and application of economic concepts and principles
- connect relationships of the individual and groups to institutions and cultural traditions
- develop and apply the use of tools of social science inquiry (such as surveys, statistics, maps, primary source documents, and advanced technology wherever possible)

Student Expectations

- Attitude – The student is expected to come to class with a desire to learn new things. Learning new things will require some work and flexibility.
- Responsibility – The student is expected to be a responsible member of the class. This means coming to class on time and having all the necessary supplies and materials required for the day. It also means using class time responsibly and contributing diligently to group projects. Some class time will be given for the completion of homework and projects. Using class time wisely and responsibly will prevent large amounts of homework.
- Respect – The student is expected to show respect to the instructor, guest speakers, other classmates, as well as classroom facilities and supplies. There is no room for destructive or negative behaviors in a learning environment. Unacceptable behaviors include disrespectful language, name-calling, vandalism of any kind, or any behavior disruptive to learning for the student or others.
- Work Ethic - The student is expected to complete all assignments by deadline and participate in class activities and discussions. Students are responsible for getting

homework assignments after absences. **Please call the attendance office to arrange to pick up work for prolonged absences.** Scholars Program teachers are available through email and by phone.

- Aim for Success - Students, please speak to me as soon as possible if you are having any difficulties. We will work together to find a solution to the problem. Communication is a key to solving problems.

Assessment

Students will be evaluated through a variety of assessment tools including: class participation, daily work, journals, tests, and projects. Assignments and feedback are frequently posted in Canvas, but official grades are posted in Home Access (eSchool). Missing assignments will be indicated by a blank space for the score.

Late Work

Late work will be accepted for full credit. Once a graded assignment has been returned to the class, an alternate assignment may be provided to the student. Late assignments and alternate assignments may not receive the same level of feedback as on-time assignments. As feedback improves understanding, it is in the student's best interest to turn assignments in on time.

Personal Electronics Policy

While personal electronic devices (such as cell phones and smartwatches) provide a necessary line of communication and can also be instructional tools, the goal is minimize unnecessary distractions. As a courtesy to the others, devices need to be silenced and stored out of sight during class time. Chromebooks should remain closed unless the teacher has given permission for their use. Cell phone use in the classroom is prohibited without specific permission from the teacher

Academic Honesty

Cheating on assignments or assessments will not be tolerated. SPS student handbook procedures will be followed.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Please sign below and return this in acknowledgment that you have read this 2020-2021 6th Grade Communication Arts/Social Studies syllabus and discussed it with your Springfield Scholars Program student.

Student Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Comments/Questions?