

**ENGLISH 6– ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

**2024-2025 SYLLABUS**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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| Instructor | Sarajane Stewart |
| Email | sstewart@vcs.net |
| Office Hours | M, W, Th 3:00-3:30 |
| Room Number(s) | 405 |
| Course URL/Moodle Page | http://learn.vcs.net |

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

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| Credit Hours | 1 |
| Course Prerequisites | English 6 |
| Course Description | Grammar study will include mastering the eight parts of speech as well as sentence composition. Vocabulary words will be derived from the literature selections. The primary writing focus will be on developing informational body paragraphs with topic sentences, key ideas, supporting evidence, and concluding sentences. Students will read and discuss novels and selections from the *MyPerspectives* textbook in class. Short stories will be studied with an emphasis on how characters respond as the plot moves toward a resolution. The students will cite textual evidence to support inferences drawn from the reading. A Biblical perspective will be applied to literary analysis. Novels to be studied will include *The Giver* and *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. Students will utilize their personal iPads for technology-based lessons |
| Required Textbook(s) or Apps | *MyPerspectives* English Language Arts 6  *The Giver* by Lois Lowry  *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor |
| Additional Materials Needed | IXL |
| Fees | N/A |

1. **PERSONAL NOTE FROM INSTRUCTOR TO LEARNERS**

**Tips for succeeding in class**

Welcome to 6th grade English! I am delighted to be working with you this year. Here are a few tips to help you achieve success:

* Always read the lesson plan on learn.vcs.net to stay up to date on homework, announcements, and upcoming assignments.
* Do your best to stay organized.
* Come to class prepared by bringing required supplies and a fully charged iPad.
* Turn in assignments on time.
* Ask questions! Make suggestions! Engage! I promise that you will learn more and have more fun if you do.

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1. **COURSE OVERVIEW**

**Course Outline/Main Units**

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| I. Literature  A. *The Giver*  B. *The Phantom Tollbooth* (play version)  C. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*  D. Related works of historical non-fiction  E. Poetry Selections  II. Grammar  A. 8 Parts of speech introduction and benchmark assessment  B. Nouns, subjects, predicates, basic sentence structure  C. Sentences, fragments, and run-ons, four types of sentences  D. Prepositions, interjections, conjunctions  E. Verbs and verb phrases, pronouns  F. Phrases and clauses, compound sentences  G. Linking verbs, capitalization, and punctuation  H. Adjectives and adverbs  I. 8 Parts of speech review  III. Vocabulary  A. Definitions  B. Synonyms and antonyms  IV. Written  A. Expository and descriptive paragraphs  B. Summary paragraphs  C. Poetry Portfolio  V. Spoken  A. Oral Presentations |
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**Overarching Biblical Theme/Verse**

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| “Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.” - Romans 12:10 |

**Major Assignments**

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| 1. *The Giver* digital portfolio  2. Quarterly paragraph writing cycles  3. Grammar Tests  4. Play Project  5. Poetry digital portfolio |

1. **CLASS POLICIES**

**Class Procedure**

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| * Class begins with prayer * Complete and correct daily grammar assignments * The English curriculum consists of units of study in literature and grammar, which are studied jointly where there is a viable connection. * iPads will be used only on the direction of the teacher |

**6th Grade Policies**

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| *6th Grade Level Policies*  *1. Classwork: Introduced and started in class. The goal is to be completed in class but can be completed*  *at home.*  *a. If not completed during class time, students are expected to complete it before the next class*  *period and submit it at the beginning of that next class period.*  *2. Homework may include:*  *a. Incomplete classwork*  *b. Independent practice*  *c. Studying for quizzes or tests*  *d. Project completion*  *e. Reading*  *If a student spends longer than 30 monitored working minutes, students are expected to proactively*  *reach out to the teacher via email or office hours before the assignment due date.*  *3. Late work: Work that is submitted after the published deadline.*  *a. Classwork/Homework: 80% of earned credit until the end the unit.*  *i. Opportunity for full credit if student attends office hours for review/submission up to*  *one week following the due date.*  *b. Students must email the teacher after the completed assignment has been submitted prior to*  *the end of the unit in order to receive credit for the assignment.*  *i. Students will use a standardized email template to inform teachers prior to the end of*  *the unit while copying at least one parent on the communication. The template will be*  *provided by each teacher.*  *c. Projects- 80% of earned credit until the end of the unit.*  *4. Daily Planner : Students will be required to record dates for quizzes, tests, presentations, project*  *milestones, and homework in their daily planner. Time for this will be available during Warrior Time*  *on Mondays. We encourage students to refer to the lesson plan for each assignment’s details.*  *Students must read each teacher’s Learn@VCS lesson plans to determine what incomplete classwork*  *now qualifies for homework. A daily planner must be brought to school each day.*  *5. Communication and Timeline:*  *a. PowerSchool: Grades or codes\* will be input on FRIDAY for graded assignments from that*  *week..*  *b. Learn@VCS: Lesson plans and deliverables will posted for the following week by FRIDAY.*  *c. Showbie: This will be used to collect assignments but will not be relied upon for access to*  *assignments, instructions, or due dates. Showbie comments will be reserved for informal*  *communication and assignment feedback. Parent or student issues with an assignment will*  *be handled via email.*  *d. Communication:*  *i. From parents: Response from teacher within 24 business hours.*  *ii. From students: Response from teacher within 24 business hours unless class occurs*  *before then. It can be resolved in class at that point.*  *iii. To students and parents: See Showbie and PowerSchool for feedback, grades, and*  *missing work. Students who have a C- or below near Progress Reports will be notified*  *by the teacher via email.*  *\*P owerSchool Codes Key:*  *IP = In Process*  *ABE = Absent - Work Excused*  *AB = Absent - make up work required*  *M = Missing - Please see late work policy*  *CH = Cheating - no credit*  *NT = Not Turned in - no credit*  *ATT = Attempted - 0 points*  *Checkmark = Assignment collected; teacher is grading*   * *Score of “0” = Student cannot resubmit or makeup* |

**Discipline Policy**

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| Discipline will be handled as outlined in the Student Handbook.  Guidelines for Student Behavior:   1. You are expected to treat everyone with respect. 2. Your actions may not cause a problem or an additional problem for anyone else. 3. You will be given the opportunity to make decisions and live with the results, whether the consequences are good or bad. 4. There will be a logical connection between misbehavior and resulting consequences.   Guidelines for Teacher Behavior:   1. I will treat everyone with respect. 2. If a student’s actions cause a problem, they will be asked to solve it. 3. If a student cannot solve the problem, or chooses not to, I will act. What I do will depend upon the situation. 4. I believe that misbehavior is an opportunity for individual problem solving and as preparation for the real world as opposed to a personal attack on the school and staff. 5. I will do my best to ensure that there is a logical connection between misbehavior and resulting consequences. |

1. **VCHS SCHOOLWIDE POLICIES**

**Bathroom Policy:**

When students need to use the bathroom, they will be required to sign in and out of the classroom.

**Test Return Policy**

Students should be able to learn from test reviews about how to study and how to succeed on future assessments. Teachers must return a copy of all assessments to students for their review. This can occur during the class period with the teacher collecting the tests at the end of class. Test corrections are encouraged when it benefits student learning.

**Excused Absence Make-up Work Policy**

Students with excused absences will be allowed two class sessions for each day absent to make up missed work. Work includes in-class assignments, labs, quizzes, reviews and any other activities worth points. A student absent only on the day of a test may be required to take the test immediately upon return to school.

**Homework Over Breaks**

No homework should be assigned over major breaks (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Winter and Easter breaks). Also, no major projects or tests should be due the day upon returning to school.

**School Defined Custom Scores in PowerSchool**

E Excused (Counts as Exempt): This assignment has been excused.

IP In Process (Counts as Exempt): If a teacher collects a large assignment, such as a book report, which may take longer than one week to grade. The teacher will mark IP to indicate it has been collected and it is in process of being graded.

ABE Absent-Work Excused (Counts as Exempt): If a student has had an excused absence the teacher may choose to excuse the missed work. The teacher will mark ABE to indicate the work is not required.

AB Absent-make up work required (Counts as 0%): If a student has been absent and this work is still required, the teacher will mark AB to indicate it is still outstanding. Students have two days to submit this work.

M Missing- Please submit (Counts as 0%): If a student did not turn in an assignment that the teacher will still accept for partial credit, the teacher will mark it as missing.

CH Cheating-no credit (Counts as 0%): If a student is caught cheating, he will receive a referral and the teacher will mark the assignment as CH which receives 0 points.

NT Not Turned in-no credit (Counts as 0%): If a student did not turn in an assignment that the teacher will no longer accept for credit, the teacher will mark it as NT.

ATT Attempted-0 points earned (Counts as 0%): If a student turns in an assignment but it was very poorly done, the teacher will mark it as ATT to indicate that it was received.

**Integrity Policies**

All students are expected to be familiar with the iPad and academic integrity policies found in the student handbook.

1. **GRADING POLICIES**

**Grading Categories (Remove if using total points which is recommended)**

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| **Grading Policy**  Students’ grades are based on various class and homework assignments, quizzes, tests, and projects.  **No Extra Credit Policy** The English Department has established a No Extra Credit policy.  Each grade level offers a balanced curriculum of grammar, literature, writing, and vocabulary every quarter.  Therefore, a student’s grade is an accurate indication of individual strengths and weaknesses.  Because English is a core academic subject, it is an essential part of consideration for placement that a student’s grade accurately reflects his/ her ability and progress without being artificially raised through extra credit.  The No Extra Credit Policy is available in its entirety upon request. |

**Late/Make-up Work Policies**

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| An assignment is considered late or missing if it is not turned in during the class in which it is due.  Emailed assignments will not be accepted in place of hard copies or Showbie submissions. |

1. **COURSE FORMAT**

**Instructional Methods**

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| Lecture | Stations |
| Student Collaboration | Inquiry-based Learning |
| Learning by Teaching | Lab |
| Student Demonstrations | Teacher Demonstrations |
| Workshops | Peer Tutoring |
| Other: |  |

**Role of the iPad**

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| Research | Organization |
| Communication | Creation |
| Formative Assessment | Other: |

1. **COURSE ASSESSMENTS**

**Formative Assessments**

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| Pre-Assessment | Benchmark |
| Written Reflections | Class Deliverables |
| Polls/Surveys | Checks for Understanding |
| Exit Tickets | Homework |
| Class Participation | In-class Activities |
| Quizzes | Other: |

**Summative Assessments**

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| Unit Exams | Mid-Term Exam | Final Exam |
| Papers | Projects | Performances |
| Speeches | Benchmark | Presentations |
| Portfolios | Other: |  |

1. **ACADEMIC CONTENT STANDARDS**

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| VCS ESLRS | http://www.vcs.net/about-vcs/eslrs/index.aspx |
| Academic Content Standards | http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RL/6 |
| National Education Technology Standards for Students (NETS-S) | http://iste.org |