

## Sixth Grade English (Reading & Composition) Syllabus

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*"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." -Aesop*

### Units & Curriculum

Reading	Composition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fables and Myths</li><li>• <i>Black Ships Before Troy (The Iliad for middle schoolers)</i></li><li>• <i>The Wanderings of Odysseus (The Odyssey for middle schoolers)</i></li><li>• <i>Julius Caesar</i></li><li>• <i>90 Miles to Havana</i></li><li>• Poetry and Figurative Language</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Short Constructed Responses</li><li>• Academic Research</li><li>• MLA Citations</li><li>• Five Paragraph Essay Writing</li><li>• Spelling</li><li>• Grammar</li><li>• DLI (Daily Language Instruction)</li><li>• Greek/Latin Root Words</li><li>• Narrative/Creative Writing</li></ul>

### Course Expectations

Students are expected to further develop reading comprehension and writing abilities, and enhance their critical thinking/analytical skills. Students should come to class prepared, complete assignments on time and be engaged in all aspects of learning, including class discussions, group work, activities and assignments. Kindness and respect are important within our classroom!

### Classroom Expectations

- Come to class on time and prepared
- Have materials with you
  - Pencil with eraser
  - Binder with dividers for handouts
  - Planner
  - Highlighters
  - Headphones
  - Choice book
  - Composition notebook (for composition class only)
- Raise your hand to speak - please do not blurt
- Please avoid side conversations during instruction

- Be respectful of everyone's ideas and opinions
- Be respectful of others' personal space and property
- Respect classroom materials, such as Chromebooks, desks and chairs
- Ask for help when needed
- Demonstrate New Vision's character pillars
  - Trustworthy, respectful, responsible, fair, caring, citizenship

\*In order to earn full participation points, students must follow these classroom expectations.

### **Chromebooks and Google Classroom**

While we often utilize paper books and materials, Chromebooks will be available to each student during the school day for some assignments. I often provide students with feedback on their writing through Google Classroom. Multiple choice tests/quizzes will be taken using Google Classroom. **Google Classroom is the best resource for students who are absent and for parents wanting to look at their student's work.**

**Student Work:** Students are expected to complete assignments during class or by the given due date. Assignments become homework if they are not completed in class or by the due date. Students are expected to use complete sentences and proper grammar on assignments. Due dates should be written by students in their planner, and will be posted visibly in class or on Google Classroom. It is the responsibility of the student to ask for help, know when their assignment is due and ensure that the assignment is turned in on time.

**Extra Credit/Redoing Assignments:** Extra credit is occasionally offered. Students may also redo assignments that receive a grade of below a C- and can earn half the points back. *I do not offer this on open book tests/quizzes.* For spelling tests, students who receive below a C- may rewrite each missed word three times to earn back half of the original points.

### **Late and Missing Assignments (From NVCS Parent-Student Handbook)**

An assignment is considered "late" if it has been turned in past the due date. Assignments turned in 1 day past the due date will be marked down by 10%. Assignments turned in two or more days late will be marked down by 25% and will be accepted until the end of the unit. Any work submitted after the end of a unit will be marked down by 50%, until the end of the quarter.

Assignments are considered "missing" when the due date has passed and no work has been submitted. Missing assignments will be marked in IC with an "M" and will be scored as a "0" until the work is submitted. Missing assignments have significant negative impacts on student grades, and all students are strongly encouraged to turn in all work.

## Grading

Assignments will be entered into Infinite Campus after they are graded. I also use a participation rubric, which I go over with students and send to parents. *Student grades can be accessed online via the Infinite Campus parent and student portals.*

### GRADING SCALE

LETTER GRADE	RANGE	DESCRIPTION
<b>A</b>	<b>90-100</b>	<b>Exceptional</b> – In effect “perfect work” – teacher can provide few to no suggestions for improvement; demonstrates skill mastery.
<b>B</b>	<b>80-89</b>	<b>Excellent</b> – While not perfect, suggestions for improvement are few and minor in nature; skill mastery is above average.
<b>C</b>	<b>70-79</b>	<b>Good</b> – There is more “right” with the work than not; some improvements can be made; skill mastery is average.
<b>D</b>	<b>60-69</b>	<b>Fair</b> – Work that has some strengths but many weaknesses; skill mastery is low.
<b>F</b>	<b>0-59</b>	<b>Poor/Incomplete/Not turned in</b> – Work lacks quality and/or quantity; does not demonstrate basic skill mastery.

## Academic Honesty

From the NVCS Parent/Student Handbook: Academic dishonesty is against New Vision Charter School’s as well as the school community standards and will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty is defined as: cheating, plagiarism or otherwise obtaining grades under false pretenses. Plagiarism is defined as submitting the language, ideas, thoughts, or work of another as one's own or assisting in the act of plagiarism by allowing one's work to be used in this fashion.

Cheating is defined as (1) obtaining or providing unauthorized information during an examination through verbal, visual, or unauthorized use of books, notes, text, electronic devices and other materials; (2) obtaining or providing information concerning all or part of an examination prior to that examination; (3) taking an examination for another student, or arranging for another person to take an exam in one's place; (4) altering or changing test answers after test is submitted for grading, changing grades after

- Copying homework assignments.
- Cheating on quizzes or exams including sharing answers with students in other sections of the course, including information in written assignments without proper citations. Any incidents of any type of academic dishonesty will result in a student receiving an F or zero for the assignment and/or course. Disciplinary Action may include suspension.

**AI tools such as ChatGPT should not be used on assignments or tests unless given teacher permission. Unapproved use of AI tools or turning in work written by AI and claiming it as your own writing is considered academic misconduct.**

**Communication**

I will return emails and phone calls within 24 hours Monday-Friday.

**Absences:** If a student is absent, it is their responsibility to get missed work from the folders on the back counter and to check Google Classroom upon return. Please consult the sixth grade handbook for more detailed information about absences and tardies.

**Vacation Absences:** If your family is going on a vacation during the school year, students may access the classwork that is posted online through Google Classroom. Other assignments, tests or quizzes can be made up when the student returns.

**Water Bottles, Food in Classrooms, Gum:** Water bottles must only contain water and should not disrupt the learning environment. Please do not bring sports drinks, coffee, etc. Students should avoid bringing food into the classroom unless approved. Gum is not permitted on the New Vision campus.

**Fidgets/Toys:** Toys and fidgets are not permitted in the classroom (unless on a formalized plan).

**Cell Phones:** Per the middle school handbook, cell phones should remain off and put away at all times when in the building.

*Please refer to the NVCS Middle School Handbook for additional information on school policies.*

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to teaching this year's students!