Maple Point Middle School

Mrs. Beth Kane

Sixth Grade Language Arts

Welcome to Maple Point Middle School. In sixth grade your children will strive to become independent readers. They will learn to make personal connections when responding to literature and learn to better demonstrate use of the writing process. I will encourage them to become independent thinkers and to communicate verbally in a clear, confident and knowledgeable manner. Since all students are capable of learning and contributing positively to class, I am looking forward to having a successful year with your child.

***UNIT OF STUDY***

* McDougal-Littell Series – The Language of Literature
* Short Stories
* Novels
  + *The Watson’s Go to Birmingham – 1963* – Christopher Paul Curtis
* Poetry – various forms, characteristics of poetry, and figurative language
* Nonfiction – biography and autobiography
* Writing Assignments
  + Personal narratives, expository, persuasive, informative, reflection, journal, compare contrast, and poetry
* Grammar – Types of sentences, punctuation, subject and predicate, subject-verb agreement, parts of speech, synonyms, antonyms, etc.
* Spelling – Words used in our stories and novels
* Oral presentations – presentations of written pieces or projects.

***Format***

* All typed assignments are to follow MLA (Modern Language Association) format, unless change of direction is given by the teacher.
* Times New Roman
* Size 12 font
* Double-spaced
* One inch margins – top, bottom, left, right

***CLASSROOM PROCEDURES***

* Class begins at the bell.
* Students must keep a notebook and bring it to class daily.
* Students will participate in a 5 minute read at the beginning of each daily class period.
* Journal/edit (rotation)– Students will respond in writing to a prompt. (This is to help with writing fluency.) Responses will be shared on a volunteer basis with the class or in small groups. Also, students will edit a short paragraph. This will help students master and retain grade-level skills in language mechanics and expression through focused, daily practice.
* Late work will be accepted for partial credit.
* Students are responsible for all work missed due to absences.
* Students are expected to utilize the agenda to log daily assignments.
* Parents should look over/sign the agenda nightly.

***HOMEWORK POLICY***

* Homework will be assigned 2-3 times/week.
* All work must be handed in on time to receive full credit.
* Late work will be accepted for partial credit.
* Once a unit of study is complete late work for that unit will not be accepted.
* Every assignment will be worth an assigned number of points.

***EVALUTATION METHOD***

* Homework/classwork
* Tests/quizzes
* Writing assignments/projects

***GRADING SYSTEM***

* My grading system is based on an accumulation of points.
  + 100% - 90% = A
  + 89% - 80% = B
  + 79% - 70% = C
  + 69% - 60% = D
  + 59% --🡪 = F

Percentages are calculated by dividing the earned total of points by the total number of possible points. This answer is then multiplied by 100.

Home access reports will keep both you and your child up to date regarding current grades. These reports will be available for you to review via the internet. If you don’t have internet access, you may request a report at any time and I will get it to you in a timely manner.

I am looking forward to a great school year and working cooperatively with you and your child throughout the year. If you need to contact me, please feel free to call, write a note in the Agenda or email.

Neshaminy’s mission statement is **“The Neshaminy community builds futures by empowering each child to become a productive citizen and a lifelong learner”.** With this in mind, I strongly believe that children of this age should be learning to advocate for themselves. I ask that parents/guardians first allow their child to approach me with any questions, concerns, or problems. This can be done through a face to face discussion/conference, or through email. If the child still has questions or concerns, then I ask that parents/guardians contact me so we may resolve the issue. I feel that this is an important step in helping all students live Neshaminy’s mission statement.

Sincerely,

Beth Kane

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