**Mrs. Shumway**

**LANGUAGE ARTS 6TH GRADE Course Syllabus**

**Course Description**: This course will target students’ growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussion, reflection, and viewing. Reading strategies, critical thinking skills, and vocabulary building comprise the main elements of reading instructions. Through fiction, nonfiction, and poetry reading, students will practice reading strategies and comprehension skills. The focus of writing will be on narrative, informational, and argumentative writing. The overall goal of the class is to increase the literacy and writing ability of students.

**Course Resources :**Glencoe Literature Course 1 (short stories, poetry, drama)

Novels: Among the Hidden, Freak the Mighty, Number the Stars, Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl,

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key, Hatchet, and the Outsiders.

\*\*Novel List is subject to change based on availability.

\*Students are expected to read on level materials at home at least one hour weekly.

**Reading Instruction will focus on**: Short stories, nonfiction, drama, poetry, novels, narrative, and other reading assessment materials. Focus will be on pulling evidence from several sources for answers to questions. Reading comprehension and critical thinking strategies, elements of literature, poetic elements, text features, summarizing, analysis, and all Common Core State Standards will be incorporated.

**Writing Instruction will focus on**: Narrative, (adding to a preexisting story or changing the point of view), Argumentative Writing (forming an opinion based on reading task; Then using textual evidence to support that opinion, and Expository using fact based research to explain more about a topic. All Common Core State Standards will be assessed in writing assignments.

**Grading and** **Access:** Students and parents can check grades at any time on-line through **Parent Portal** (contact the Main Office for help). Teachers will update grades weekly. Progress reports will be available every 4 ½ weeks and Report cards will be issued every 9 weeks. **Grading system**: 90 or above **A**, 80-89 **B**, 70-79 **C**, 69 and below- **F**

**Classwork/Homework/Tests**: Essays and Tests count 60%. Classwork and Homework count 40%. Work assigned in class is important and is expected to be completed and turned in on time. Students who are absent have 3 days to get missed assignments from the teacher and turn those in to receive credit. Student should proofread assignments for quality. Spelling, capitalization, and grammar count. Students are expected to read on level materials at home at least one hour weekly.

**Virtual** : Students are expected to attend scheduled online meetings, turn in online assignments through Canvas, and Communicate with teacher and other school staff if there are circumstances preventing student from being able to access internet or computer for school purposes.

**Communication:** Please e-mail **hshumway@paulding.k12.ga.us** with questions or concerns any time. I try to respond to each within 24 hours. If you do not hear from me, resend or feel free to call the school (770-456-4188) and leave me a message .

**Gifted and Advanced :** Students in advanced classes will delve deeper into specific topics for a higher level of understanding. Adv classes may have additional questions that require more analysis and synthesizing of information. These students will be assigned higher level reading articles and will be required to justify their responses. Students will use higher level reading strategies and will practice a variety of partner/group work activities in class. Students are expected to read a variety of fiction and non-fiction at home based on their Lexile level for 1-2 hours weekly.