



6th Grade Gifted English Language Arts
Sutton Middle School
www.suttonmiddleschool.org

Sutton Middle School is an International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program School. It is a program of international education designed to help students develop the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and skills necessary to participate actively and responsibly in a changing world.

Course Description:

The 6th grade ELA curriculum allows students opportunities to receive instruction in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and viewing. By the end of 6th grade, students will be able to use oral and written language, media, and technology for expressive, informational, argumentative, critical, and literary purposes, extend appreciation of written and spoken language beyond the school setting, as well as produce quality compositions, and differentiated products & performances with real-world relevance.

Common Core Georgia Performance Standards Overview: (see GADOE.org)

Instruction in grades 6-8 addresses students' increasing maturity and the growing sophistication of their abilities, culminating in the development by the end of grade 6, of students who are ready to succeed in 7th grade. Students should be able to comprehend more challenging books and articles, basing all of their analyses, inferences, and claims on explicit and relevant evidence from the texts. Students will expand on their ability to identify central ideas by identifying how those themes are shaped and conveyed by particular details. Their analysis of basic literary elements will extend to identifying connections and complexities within narratives and how individual elements weave together to advance plot and reveal character. The evaluation of the impact of language on tone and meaning will begin to include more sophisticated concepts such as analogy and allusion, subtleties in point of view such as dramatic irony, and a more sophisticated appreciation for connotative diction. These skills will be incorporated into the students' own narrative and expository writing. Students will become increasingly adept at understanding an author's biases, the use of complex rhetorical devices including logical fallacies, and tailoring his or her own prose for maximum influence. While continuing with a variety of literary non-fiction, students in grades 6-8 will begin to tackle more technical informational texts as well. Literary selections will include foundational materials from mythology, cultural histories, and religious traditions. Text complexity levels are assessed based upon a variety of indicators.

The CCGPS may be viewed in detail at

<https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/meetings/Attachment.aspx?S=1262&AID=245075&MID=15932>

Unit Themes:

Unit 1: Life, Love, and Learning

Unit 2: Survival Against Unbeatable Odds

Unit 3: A Closer Look at the Past

Unit 4: The Margins Where We Live



Books:

- Prentice-Hall Literature
- Informational & Fictional Texts
- Possible Titles: *Chicken Soup for the Teen Soul, The Outsiders, The Cay, Blood on the River, Bridge to Terabithia, Outcasts United, The Breadwinner, The Slave Dancer*
- Various articles from periodicals such as *Scholastic, Time, News Week, & The Atlantic*
- Technology & Media Literacy
- Other selections to be determined by the teacher

Materials & Supplies:

- #2 pencils, blue/black pens, highlighters
- 3- ring 2-inch binder with 5 dividers, loose-leaf paper
- Post-it notes and/or flags
- Access to a computer & printer (at home)
- Colored pencils, crayons, markers, glue, scissors, dictionary, thesaurus (at home)

Academic Grading Scale: A = 90 – 100
 B = 80 – 89
 C = 70 – 79
 F = 0 – 69

Grading System: Projects/Tests/Essays = 30%
 Classwork = 30%
 Quizzes = 20%
 Independent Reading = 10%
 Homework = 10%

Grade Reporting: Check Infinite Campus (Parent Portal) regularly for current average.

Gifted & Talented Standards:

- ***Advanced Communication Skills**—Learners will engage in diverse and authentic learning experiences which will allow them to develop and apply innovative oral, written, visual, and nonverbal communication skills across disciplines.
- ***Advanced Research Skills**—Learners will gather, decipher, and determine credibility of information from a variety of sources and integrate information through analysis of content.
- ***Creative Thinking & Problem Solving**—Learners will insightfully evaluate a variety of problems and arrive at innovative conclusions.
- ***Higher Order & Critical Thinking Skills**—Learners will analytically critique a system or set of complex ideas, utilizing logic and reasoning skills in novel ways to create and/or modify knowledge.

Absences and Late Work: School continues in your absence; therefore, students are responsible for all material covered when absent. Consult Student Handbook for system-wide policy. If the teacher chooses to accept late work, there could be a point deduction.

Cheating: Each student is responsible for his/her own work. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and there will be serious consequences.

Conferences and Communication: Please contact me directly to schedule a conference. I attempt to reply to all emails within two school days.

**My signature below indicates I have read, understand, and will make every attempt to comply with the learning protocols from above. I understand I must take responsibility for my own learning.*

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____