

ELA 6 - 2023-2024 Teacher: Renee Merkel

Mode of Communication: My main mode of communication with the students will be Google Classroom. My email address is merkel@idaschools.org. Parents/Guardians can contact me with any questions regarding their child's learning. If you would like to speak with me directly, my planning hour is from 2:18 - 3:10 @ (734) 269-9003 extension 2030.

Curriculum: In Sixth Grade English, we will practice communication skills. These skills include reading, writing, speaking, listening and building vocabulary. We will practice writing narrative, expository, and argumentative pieces, and many smaller works throughout the year. Students will also explore prefix, suffix and root word meanings.

Modes of Instruction: All weekly agendas will be posted on Google Classroom on Monday. If a student is out of the classroom for an extended period of time, I will arrange for some of the work to be posted on Google Classroom or picked up in the office. No Red Ink will be used for supplemental grammar practice for many homework assignments.

Classroom Management: I will be implementing a "Teams and Themes" approach to classroom management this year. Each class will be put into teams of four with various roles for each team member. The teams will be competing for points for a 9-week period. At the end of 9 weeks, the two teams with the most points will be awarded coupon books that can be used in the classroom. At no time will I award or subtract points on individual grades. At the start of the second marking period, everyone on the two teams with the most points will be team leaders of their own teams. I have two major themes in my classroom: respect and responsibility. I feel every violation of classroom expectations will fall under one of these categories. I will issue two warnings that a student violated a theme of class. On the second warning, their name will go in my book and a call will be made home. On the third warning, the student will be expected to attend a lunch detention in my classroom. During that time, the student will set goals to improve his or her behavior. On the fourth offense, a behavior referral will be written up and submitted to the principal.

Materials Needed:

- Two spiral-bound notebooks
- Two-pocket folder
- Multi-colored highlighters and colored pencils
- Pencils, regular or mechanical
- One box of tissues

I look forward to working with your child this year. My focus will always be to try and understand what is best for him or her. You can play a vital role in helping me give the best education to your child by being in communication with me about any concerns you or your child may have in my class. I will do my best to reach out to you with more praises than concerns.