Core English 6

**2016-2017 Course Expectations**

**Teachers:** Ms. Andrea Vinikoff, Mrs. Jessica Spearman, and Mrs. Katelin Widel

**Room:** 514

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**Class Website:** <http://pams-avinikoff.wikispaces.com/>

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:** Sign up for **Parental Portal** to view your child’s grades by accessing our Website (http//www.princessanne.vbschools.com/) Grades are usually updated weekly. You may also subscribe to **“My School Mail” on our website.** **“My School Mail”** is the daily homework sent to you by email. We will also be utilizing wikispaces for communication purposes.

**ENGLISH 6 COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The English Curriculum is taught by Units. The following four units will be taught in this order: *Search for Identity, Passages and Challenges, The Role of the Writer, and Exploring Themes from Mystery and the Unknown* or *Laughter and Sorrow.*

**TEXT and MATERIALS: *Holt: Elements of Literature, The Holt Reader*** and a variety of novels that coincide with each unit. In addition to any assigned novels, students are required to read one additional book during each nine week grading period. *Your child will also need an independent reading book daily.*

**Class Supplies:**

* Three-ring binder containing a separate section for English
* Loose-leaf paper
* Pencils
* Pens
* Coloring Utensils
* Highlighters
* Spiral notebook with at least 100 pages
* Flash drive (this will be used for all classes)
* Agenda (which students will be given)
* \*\*Donations of tissues, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, paper towels, glue sticks, and any other classroom supplies would be greatly appreciated!

**ASSESSMENT MEASURES:** Students will be assessed in many ways to accommodate a variety of learning styles. Observation, discussion, graphic organizers, oral presentations, quizzes, tests, projects, self-evaluation, and written assignments are methods of assessment. Students will also be given a choice on how they will demonstrate mastery of the objectives. All the Sixth Grade English classes will take a Reading SOL in the fourth quarter.

**STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS/HOMEWORK:** If a student is **absent**, he/she will be given a set amount of time to complete their missed work. For example, if a student is out for two days, they will be given two days to make up the work. Students who do not complete make-up work will have an MI in the grade book. Each student will have until one week prior to the end of the quarter to turn in the work. If the work is not turned in that time, a zero will be earned.

**Homework** will be assigned as necessary to reinforce or extend the lessons learned in class. Although there may not be an assignment given every night, it is recommended that students review each day’s lessons at home. Homework will be checked for completion and corrected in class. Homework assignments are written on the homework board every day. Your child’s homework will also be sent daily via *My School Mail.* It is the student’s responsibility to write daily assignments in his/her agenda and check the *While You Were Out* folder for make-up work. Students may be sent to RECALL for choosing not to complete class assignments, or projects. If the work is turned in prior to the RECALL date, it will be graded and the student will not have to serve RECALL. If a student does not attend RECALL to make up work, he/she will be assigned ISS and remain there until the work is complete and ready for grading.

**GRADING PROCEDURES AND POLICIES:**

Your child’s English grade will be computed in the following manner:

1. Tests, essays, and projects are weighted as two grades
2. All other assignments are weighted as one grade
3. Students will be given the opportunity to retake a test or redo a project to earn a higher grade. Each student will be required to complete an analysis, or task as designed by the teacher, that demonstrates he/she has reviewed and understands the material prior to the retake.

**Home/School Communication:**

Keeping the communication lines open between the parents and the teachers is vital to a student’s success. Below are ways I will be communicating with you:

* **Conferences** – You may schedule a conference through the guidance department. Conferences are held between 8:40-9:00 A.M. Do not hesitate to contact me via email or phone to discuss any concerns, or ask any questions, you may have.
* **Students with IEPs:** If you have any questions or concerns about your child’s **IEP, your primary contact** is your child’s case manager, followed by Mrs. Spearman or Mrs. Widel, Grade 6 English teacher. Your **primary contact for English questions is Mrs. Spearman or Mrs. Widel**.

**Behavioral Expectations:** Students experiencing difficulties meeting behavioral expectations will be disciplined according to the Princess Anne Middle School discipline plan**. Steps include: warning, written notification to parent, detention, referral to guidance/conference, and referral to administration**. Depending on the severity of the offense, these steps may not occur in this order. Please refer to the student agenda and/or **Code of Conduct** as it will be strictly enforced. The **Dress Code** will also be enforced. Any student not dressed properly will be sent to the office so that he/she may call home for new clothing. **Cell phones** **must be off (not on silent) and out of sight in the classroom, unless they are being used as part of the lesson.** If a student’s phone rings or vibrates during class, it will be taken and given back to the student at the end of the class. **Attendance is crucial.** Missing one block is equivalent to missing two classes. Please readthe **VBCPS** **Attendance Policy** carefully. Both verified and unverified absences count as missed days. Excessive absences will be reported to the administration.

\*\*Please complete the Google Forms sheet acknowledging that you have read and reviewed these expectations with your child.

<https://goo.gl/forms/odSmZQzLfKBE8PNe2>