

Language Arts  
Grade 6

September 6, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts. I am very excited to be your child's teacher this year. I'd like to give you an overview of the year and also of my expectations and policies. Language Arts consists of English/Grammar, Writing, and Spelling. We have a lot to cover in forty minutes per day! Reading will be a separate class with Ms Twohy. Students are expected to come to class prepared by bringing their textbooks, binder, pen/pencil, and any homework that is due.

Grading and Homework

All assignments must be properly headed, neat, and turned in on time. Students will be allowed one late assignment each *trimester* without penalty. Ten percent will be deducted every day from the grades of any subsequent late assignments during that same trimester. If your child is absent, he/she should have a homework friend doing an assignment sheet, can check with a trustworthy classmate, or ask me. The grading scale is listed in the parent/student handbook. Grades will be weighted as follows:

LANGUAGE ARTS	SPELLING
Daily Homework 30%	Tests 100%
Tests 30%	
Written Papers 40%	

Daily homework will be given. If your child is having difficulty keeping up with homework, please contact me. I, in return, will contact you when there are a few late/missing assignments and will not wait until mid-trimester reports. **I will post all rubrics and due dates for papers and project on the middle school Language Arts' website.**

Spelling

Spelling will be covered during the Language Arts class time. I will give out and discuss the spelling words on Mondays. The test will be Fridays or the last day of the school week. Included in the list will be a few of the *Lifetime Words*. (See Lifetime Words letter.)

Writing in Cursive

At this age, many students' penmanship goes to pot after all the work that they did in the early grades learning to write. Many students argue that the computer is taking over and that they won't need to write in cursive. However, handwriting is very important in the development of perceptual skills and fine motor skills. Many kids are weak in this area due to all the computer and interactive games. Handwriting is also important in strengthening neural connections. Lastly, to date, cursive is still a required learner's outcome. With that being said, I will expect most homework assignments to be done in cursive.

Communication

If you have any concerns or questions, please call or email me. I am at school Monday- Friday from 7:15-3:30. I will check emails at the beginning and end of my school days and during prep times if possible, but not during a class. My email address is tray@saintroseoflima.net.

Finally, I strongly believe in my students' ability to create a caring, learning environment. It is my expectation that we will have a classroom in which care, respect, and responsibility matter. If at any time this vision has been jeopardized by any individual(s), immediate action will be taken and logical consequences will be applied.

I look forward to working with you and having a good year with you and your child. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Theresa Ray

---

Please sign, date, and return the bottom portion of this letter by Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> to indicate that you have read and understand the information stated regarding your child's Language Arts class.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade/Section \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_