

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS—GRADE 6

## Course Content

**English Language Arts** comprise the skills needed to communicate effectively, including speaking, listening, writing, and reading. Literature, spelling, grammar, mechanics and usage are means to that end.

**Composition.** Our school-wide goal of writing across the curriculum is an essential focus at WPMS, so much emphasis is placed on different writing exercises and projects. The writing process (prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and producing a final, corrected product) will be realized through the strategy of the “Six Plus One Traits of Writing.” Examples of writing projects can be found at the DoDEA website under standards and content.

**Journals.** Most classes begin with a 10-minute free-writing episode in their journals, for which they will need a dedicated marble notebook. This is “free” writing, which will not be graded. Research has shown that student writers are more prolific when given the freedom to write on topics of their choice. The intent of the journal is a place for students to practice without fear of the infamous red pen, and is an effective tool for establishing fluency.

**Spelling.** Spelling units will rotate every three days. Day one includes a pre-test with spelling corrections as the assignment. Day two includes further work on any words the child could not spell correctly during the pre-test. On day three students will take the quiz which will be graded.

**Grammar, Usage & Conventions.** Units taken from *English Composition and Grammar, Introductory Course* will employ a systematic exploration of those elements of grammar, usage and conventions most necessary to speak and write the language with control and correctness. Units on sentences, parts of speech, agreement of subject and verb, and mechanics will be presented in mini-lessons and tested on a regular basis.

## Grading

- Spelling quizzes 15%
- Homework 25%
- Compositions 25%
- Unit Tests 35%

## Discipline

Unless a serious infraction has been committed, these steps will be taken: 1.) warning by teacher 2.) teacher-student conference 3.) detention / parent notified 4.) counselor asked to meet with student 5.) student referred to principal.

The main exception to this policy is late homework. I will often ask students to come to me after school on the days that homework is not turned in to ensure that it gets done before the no-credit deadline.