**Course Description**

The Middle School Language Arts curriculum primarily focuses on reading comprehension, effective writing, problem solving, and critical thinking. These skills will be nourished on a daily basis in order to enhance academic achievement.

**Main Curriculum Components**

1. **Florida Standards**

For the 2016-2017 school year, the State of Florida will be using the Florida standards for English Language Arts to help the students reach their fullest potential. These standards promote the critical thinking and problem solving skills the student will need to be competitive in the 21st century. For more information regarding the standards, please visit <http://www.flstandards.org/>.

1. ***Collections***

*Collections* is the textbook program adopted by Broward County for the 2016-2017 school year. This program will help the student learn to analyze complex texts, determine evidence, reason critically, and communicate thoughtfully. Each *Collection* consists of a variety of texts, as well as a writing component infused with academic vocabulary, punctuation, and grammar. The program includes both a digital and a text approach. The digital approach includes numerous multimedia components reinforcing key ideas.

1. **Project-Based Learning**

Projects are 20% of the student’s final grade. The student will engage in Project-Based Learning and explore real world problems and challenges. We will infuse technology in a meaningful way.

1. **Accelerated Reader**

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a program used to encourage student reading. Students will take a diagnostic test, known as a STAR test, to determine their reading level. Each quarter the student will be assigned a goal to meet based on their reading level. Student progress will be monitored using the AR tracking form, which should be signed by the parent or guardian every week. At the end of each quarter, students will receive two grades for AR.

**Student Expectations**

As stated in the Broward County Code of Conduct, good classroom discipline promotes a safe and effective educational environment. It is in the best interest of all middle school students to behave according to these contracts. These rules include, but are not limited to:

1. Be respectful to all adults and students through appropriate language, tone of voice, posture, and actions.
2. Follow all directions the first time, and act with integrity.
3. Be respectful to the building, classrooms, and all items on campus.
4. Be prepared for class and appropriately dressed.
5. Travel through the hallways quietly and orderly.
6. Uniforms are required and our dress code will be enforced.

The SPORT policy is also enforced in my classroom. The acronym is described below:

S – Seated at bell

P – Prepared for class

O – One Voice

R – Respect

T – Timeliness

**\*The consequences outlined in the Broward County Code of Conduct will be diligently enforced in class. Students may also be asked to sign the Behavior Log in an individual teacher’s classroom. If the student earns three infractions, they will receive a work day detention.\***

**Student Agenda:**

Every student will receive an agenda. The agenda should be used daily to record important dates, enrichment activities, and studying and reading reminders. The student should read for at least 35 minutes every day. The agenda should also be used to record the “I Can…” statements that are displayed in the teacher classrooms. This will allow parents or guardians to stay up to date with what the student is learning every day in class. Bathroom pass

**Achievement and Grading:**

Student achievement will be graded on the evenly weighted scale and components below. Parents or guardians should check the PowerSchool website daily to monitor student progress and grades. PowerSchool can be accessed through the Franklin Academy Sunrise Homepage by selecting Online Resources, choosing the appropriate grade level, and clicking on PowerSchool or by going directly to the website using the following link <http://ps.franklin-academy.org/public/home.html> .

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| **Letter Grade** | **Percentage** |
| A | 90-100% |
| B | 80-89% |
| C | 70-79% |
| D | 60-69% |
| F | 59% or Below |
| I | Incomplete |

* Classwork 20%
* Projects 20%
* Tests 35%
* Quizzes 25%

**Late or Missed Work**

Student work must be turned in during class on the due date for full credit. In the event a student turns in work late, it will be graded out of 100, with 10 points per day late deducted from the grade, as stated in the Parent/Student Handbook.

**10/10 and Hallway Passes**

Students will not be allowed to leave the classroom during the first and last 10 minutes of class. This is for the students’ protection and safety and will be strictly enforced. Only one student will be allowed out of class at a time to use the restroom.

**Use of Technology and Behavioral Standards:**

Internet access is offered to the student for educational purposes. The Acceptable Use Policy for the student’s use of online tools will be strictly enforced in the classroom. As mentioned previously, technology will be an integral part of the classroom. Ms. Clarke has created a classroom website to foster communication. On this website the parent or guardian and student will find links to important resources and documents, newsletters, and announcements. To visit Ms. Clarke’s website from the Franklin Academy Sunrise Homepage, select Faculty and Staff and click the link for Ms. Clarke’s website or go directly to https://www.fa6ela.weebly.com . Students are required to check the website daily as class assignments, projects, quizzes, and tests reminders will be posted there.

**Cell Phones/Electronic Devices**

As stated in the Parent/Student handbook, the use of electronic devices by a student when school is in session is not allowed. Students bringing handheld games to school will have them confiscated for the day, unless authorized by administration. If a student possesses a cellular telephone, it should be turned off and kept out of sight inside the student’s book bag, and it may not be allowed to emit any ring tone or other noise on school grounds during school hours. A cellular telephone is not permitted for reading purposes. If a student is found using a cellular telephone on campus during school hours, it will be confiscated and may be picked up at the end of the day in the office by a parent or guardian. The consequences outlined in the Parent/Student Handbook will be strictly enforced in the classroom.

**Parent (s) and Guardian (s):**

Thank you for the opportunity to teach your child. I will communicate with you regarding work completion, effort, and behavior. Classroom newsletters and updates may be sent via email, as well as posted on our classroom website. I look forward to partnering with you in order to provide the best educational setting for your child. Please read and discuss this syllabus with your child, then sign, date, and return to Ms. Clarke

Parent (s) or Guardian (s) Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent (s) or Guardian (s) Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Printed Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_