



Grade 6 Humanities 2018-19
Upper Mississippi Academy
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Grade 6 Language Arts and Social Studies Upper Mississippi Academy

Overview

Welcome to 6th grade Language Arts and Social Studies! These yearlong courses take place every other day; Social Studies on A days and Language Arts on B days. You will find information pertaining to both classes on my blog (located at <https://mad19blog.wordpress.com/>), and it is important that you become familiar with said blog early and refer to it often. I will update the blog each week.

Course Description: Language Arts

The ability to connect with literature and the human experience surrounds the 6th grade language arts curriculum. This course examines the power of words, delving deeper into text in order to further develop reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Reflection and critical thinking are woven into the course through literature circles. In writing, students are challenged to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information through a yearlong project where they select a topic of interest to them and craft a variety of pieces including informational articles, short stories, biographies, editorials, interviews, and reviews. Their written work is shared on a website they design and update throughout the year. Independent reading takes place at the start of each class period, so students are expected to bring self-selected books to class. Additionally, literature circles take place throughout the year so students can share their ideas and listen to the reflections of others in small groups.

Course Description: Social Studies

Minnesota Studies introduces the concept of exploring our state through the disciplines of history, geography, civics, and economics. Highlights include a mock legislative session, structured academic controversies, and an in-depth, self-directed inquiry into the US Dakota War. Students are challenged to present what they learn in different modalities as they ponder the question, what does it mean to be a Minnesotan? In addition to learning about Minnesota, current events at the local, national and international levels are examined throughout the year. As is the case in Language Arts, a significant amount of writing will take place, and technology will be used throughout the course to help further our learning.

Grade 6 Language Arts & Social Studies Standards (For details, refer to the MDE Standards website)

Reading Literature & Informational Text Benchmarks:

- Key Ideas and Details (6.4.1.1; 6.4.2.2; 6.4.3.3; 6.5.1.1; 6.5.2.2; 6.5.3.3)
- Craft and Structure (6.4.4.4; 6.4.5.5; 6.4.6.6; 6.5.4.4; 6.5.5.5; 6.5.6.6)
- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas (6.4.7.7; 6.4.8.8; 6.4.9.9; 6.5.7.7; 6.5.8.8; 6.5.9.9)
- Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity (6.4.10.10; 6.5.10.10)

Writing Benchmarks:

- Text Types and Purposes (6.7.1.1; 6.7.2.2; 6.7.3.3)
- Writing Process: Production and Distribution of Writing (6.7.4.4; 6.7.5.5; 6.7.6.6)
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge (6.7.7.7; 6.7.8.8; 6.7.9.9; 6.7.10.10)

Speaking, Viewing, Listening and Media Literacy Benchmarks:

- Comprehension and Collaboration (6.9.1.1; 6.9.2.2; 6.9.3.3)
- Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas (6.9.4.4; 6.9.5.5; 6.9.6.6)
- Media Literacy (6.9.8.8)

Language Benchmarks:

- Conventions of Standard English (6.11.1.1; 6.11.2.2)
- Knowledge of Language (6.11.3.3)
- Vocabulary Acquisition and Use (6.11.4.4; 6.11.5.5; 6.11.6.6)

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Social Studies:

- Citizenship and Government (6.1.1.1.1; 6.1.1.1.2; 6.1.1.1.3; 6.1.3.4.1; 6.1.3.5.1; 6.1.4.6.1; 6.1.4.6.2; 6.1.4.6.3)
- Economics (6.2.1.1.1; 6.2.2.2.1; 6.2.4.5.1; 6.2.4.8.1)
- Geography (6.3.1.1.1; 6.3.3.6.1; 6.3.4.10.1)
- History (6.4.1.2.1; 6.4.4.15.1; 6.4.4.16.1; 6.4.4.18.1; 6.4.4.18.2; 6.4.4.18.3; 6.4.4.19.1; 6.4.4.19.2; 6.4.4.19.3)

Assessments & Grading

Assessment Types

Assessments will be either formative or summative. Formative assessments are quizzes and checks for understanding. They may be traditional written quizzes or mini-projects. Summative assessments are larger and occur at the end of a unit typically. They will vary in points and type. They may be a debate/discussion, larger project, or written test (although test are incredibly rare in these classes).

Grade Breakdown

All grades in these classes are done by point values. While categories are not weighted, certain assignments and tasks are worth more points and therefore affect your grade more.

Grade Scale

I use the grading scale found in most UMA middle school courses.

94%-100%	A
90%-93%	A-
87%-89%	B+
84%-86%	B
80%-83%	B-
77%-79%	C+
74%-76%	C
70%-73%	C-
67%-69%	D+
64%-66%	D
60%-63%	D-
59% and below	F

Classroom Policies

Behavior Expectations

Students are expected to:

- Come into class each day and start working on the warm-up prompt right away.
- Be respectful of the comments and opinions expressed by their classmates.
- Be good listeners, being quiet while your teacher or classmates speak.
- Use class work time efficiently and productively.
- Use computers **only** for the specific purpose of assignments.
- Turn in homework on or before the assignment due date.
- Put cell phones away during class time.

Absences

If you are absent in the class, it is up to you to talk to me to get the work you missed. You have 2 days for every day you are absent to turn in your work.

Late Work/Retake Policy

- **ALL** in-class assignments must be completed by the time assigned in order to earn credit.
- **ALL** assignments and projects will be docked 10% off the final grade for class period late. After two weeks, they will no longer be accepted.
- **ALL** assessments (projects, tests, etc) may be retaken or redone for credit. You will have a week from when the graded assessment is returned to retake or resubmit. Your final grade will be an average of your original grade and your retake. It is up to you to arrange a retake!

Communication

As mentioned above, my class blog is available for parents, guardians, and students at [\(https://mad19blog.wordpress.com/\)](https://mad19blog.wordpress.com/)

By Sunday of each week, I will have the next week's plans for the class posted under each course, along with links and attachments for assignments when possible.

In case of any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me: mark.dallmann@umissacademy.org.

Please sign below and return this to Mr. Dallmann on or before Wednesday, 8/29/18

I, _____(student name), have read through the syllabus and understand the course policies and information. My parent(s) and/or guardian(s) have also looked through it and understand the information in the syllabus as well. By signing this, I understand that I am responsible for following the information and guidelines laid out in this syllabus.

_____ Student Signature

_____ Parent/Guardian Signature