

**Ms. Audrey Gürtler**  
**School: (865) 938-9008**  
**Audrey.gurtler@knoxschools.org**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors English/Language Arts**  
**2019-2020**

## **Contact Information:**

My plan time will be from 11:30-1:00. The best way to reach me is through e-mail, but you can contact me through the school phone as well. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a conference, please contact me! If at some point in the year you feel your child is struggling in class, I can provide information about tutoring opportunities provided by the school.

## **Curriculum:**

“The 6<sup>th</sup> grade English language arts standards outline the reading, writing, language, speaking, listening, and research skills students will need to succeed in college and the workforce. With a renewed emphasis on the close reading of complex texts, especially literary nonfiction, the ELA standards require all students to graduate ready to read and respond to the academic and technical texts they will encounter throughout their adult lives.”

In particular, the honors’ curriculum will focus on developing critical thinking and life-long learning through independence. Students will have some autonomy to make choices about the texts they read and how they demonstrate their understanding of those texts. This class will heavily involve reading, writing, revising, and discussion.

As an honors level class, students will delve more deeply in the subject matter, read more complex texts, and serve as leaders in their own learning. Students should complete assignments on time and come to class ready to discuss, ask questions, and analyze the material. Students in honors classes will have more independence and more choice, but that comes with high expectations and responsibility. Students will often work above their comfort zone. They will be challenged. Therefore, they must also be willing to seek help and ask questions when needed.

**Class Supplies (Students need all supplies by Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. If this is not possible for you, please let me know.)**

One 5 subject notebook (stays in the classroom)  
One folder with pockets (for homework, stays with student)  
Earbuds/Headphones (for online testing, will be used three times this year)  
Highlighters  
Pencils  
Sticky Notes

Students must have a book for independent reading with them at all times. This can be a book the child owns, one checked out from the library, or one borrowed from me. If your child needs help finding a book, please let me know. If a student finishes classwork early, they will be expected to read or find an academic assignment to complete.

## **Textbooks and Resources:**

-Prentice Hall *Literature: Common Core Edition* (This is our main book.)  
-McDougal Littell *The Language of Literature*  
-Glencoe *Writer’s Choice*  
-Glencoe *Grammar and Language Workbook*  
-Various children’s literature books

## **Media and Literature:**

The following items are novels, films, and music that may be used for instructional purposes throughout the year:

Novels may include: *A Long Way from Chicago*; *A Wrinkle in Time*; *Where the Red Fern Grows*; *A Year Down Yonder*; *Crash*; *Hoot*; *Zlata's Diary*; *Esperanza Rising*; *Ella Enchanted*; *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*; *The Hidden Girl*; *Maniac Magee*; *Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer*; *The Graveyard Book*; *The City of Ember*; *The Phantom Tollbooth*; *Island of the Blue Dolphins*; *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*; *Hidden Figures Young Readers' Edition*, *The Wizard of Oz*; *Holes*; *Prince Caspian*; *My Life in Dog Years*; *Bud, Not Buddy*; and *Tuck Everlasting*. We may also examine *Grimms' Fairy Tales* and *Aesop's Fables*.

**\* Alternate materials are available at parent discretion. These alternate materials must still cover the same standards as the original text.**

**\*\*Feel free to purchase your own copy of any of these books.**

Music: “Stressed Out” by Twenty One Pilots, “Rip Tide” by Vance Joy, “Love Song” by Sarah Bareilles, “Firework” by Katy Perry, “Here We Go” by Grits, “Sittin’ on the Dock of the Bay” by Otis Redding, “Yellow” by Coldplay, “Ooh Ahh” by Grits, “Roll Over Beethoven” by Chuck Berry, “Unwritten” by Natasha Bedingfield, “Just the Two of Us” and “Fresh Prince” Theme Song by Will Smith, and “Red” and “Love Story” by Taylor Swift, “Can’t Buy Me Love” and “Money (That’s What I Need)” by the Beatles, “Katy Perry—Dark Horse (Sung in 20 Different Styles)” by Ten Second Songs, “Rude” by MAGIC!, “Rude—vintage 1950’s Sock Hop-Style MAGIC! Cover” ft. Von Smith, “Sweet Child O’ Mine” by Guns ‘N Roses, “Sweet Child O’ Mine – New Orleans Style Guns ‘N Roses Cover” ft. Michel Braden, and “Word Crimes” by Weird Al Yankovic. Please check our class webpage for additions to this list.

Films: *Tuck Everlasting*—PG, *Hoot*—PG, *Holes*—PG, *Maniac Magee*—PG, *The City of Ember*- PG, *A Wrinkle in Time*—TV PG, *Where the Red Fern Grows*—G, *United Streaming*-videos for educational purposes, Pixar Shorts, *Hidden Figures*—PG, *Brain Pop*, *Quack SAT Vocabulary*, *Discovery Education* videos, *Study Island* videos, *TED Talk* videos and various clips from commercials.

\*Note: If the parent or guardian finds any of the above material objectionable, an alternate assignment can be given.

## **Additional Texts:**

Additional texts and resources will be pulled from local and national newspapers, magazines, and online databases. Magazines include *Time for Kids*, *Scholastic*, and *National Geographic Kids*. Specific databases include *World Book Encyclopedia*, *Newsela*, and *CommonLit*.

## **Classroom Library:**

A variety of age appropriate books are available in the classroom for students to read and check out. Like the books available to check out in the school library, these books are not subject to the same approval process as instructional materials taught in class. Some books in the classroom library may require parent permission for students to check out and take home.

### **Assignments:**

Students are required to copy assignments in their agenda books each day. Assignments are expected to be completed and turned in by the due date. When a student is absent, it will be his or her responsibility to obtain, complete, and turn in all missed work. Once students return to school they will receive one day for each day absent to turn in missed work. **Late work will be accepted no later than 5 days after the due date and will receive partial credit.**

### **Grades:**

Grades will be earned through daily work, homework, quizzes, essays, projects, participation, and tests. You will be able to see these grades on Parent Portal which can be accessed through the Knox County Schools website. These will be updated regularly. My grading will be based on a point system. Because different tasks require different effort, not all grades will be weighted the same. In other words, some assignments may be worth more points than others. This class is hard, and your student may not have straight A's. That does not mean that your student is not being successful. **Hard work and improvement are better measures of a student's success.**

Below is the Knox County Grading Scale:

A=93-100

B=85-92

C=75-84

D=70-74

U=0-69

**All students will take the TCAP, which may count as 15% of the student's final grade, and an Honors Midterm in December, which will count for a percentage of their first semester grade.**

### **Projects:**

Students will be required to complete several projects throughout the year. These projects will incorporate many of the skills and objectives learned throughout the semester. Much of the work will be done inside the class, but it may be necessary for students to complete small portions of projects outside class. Most of our projects require students to use computers or other technology. Computers are available for students at school during homeroom and during class. Occasionally there will be additional opportunities for students to access this technology. Alternatively, the technology required is accessible anywhere with internet access. Participation, drafts, revisions, and daily work related to these projects may be used as daily grades or quiz grades.

We work closely with other subject teachers on projects. Additional help is available most Tuesday mornings from 7:30-8. Help is always available during homeroom time or via email.

### **Classroom Expectations:**

1. Be respectful to everyone.
2. Be prepared for class.
3. Be engaged.
4. Be positive.

## **Plagiarism:**

According to Harbrace Handbook, 15th edition:

“Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else’s ideas, research, or opinion as your own without proper documentation, even if it has been rephrased. It includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Copying verbatim all or part of another’s written work;
2. Using phrases, figures, or illustrations without citing the source;
3. Paraphrasing ideas, conclusions, or research without citing the source;
4. Using all or part of a literary plot, poem, or film without attributing the work to its creator.”

## **CONSEQUENCES OF PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is a form of stealing and academic fraud. Students who are found guilty of plagiarism will have the option of either redoing the assignment within a specified time period and accepting a grade letter drop or taking a zero on the assignment. Parents should be involved in making the decision.

## **Knox County Policy on Religion in Curriculum**

The Board affirms that it is essential that the teaching about religion—and not of a religion be conducted in a factual, objective and respectful manner in accordance with the following:

1. Music, art, literature, or drama with a religious theme or basis are permitted as part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs provided it is essential to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively;
2. The emphasis on religious themes in the arts, literature and history shall be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of these areas. Such studies shall never foster any particular religious tenets or demean any religious beliefs; and
3. Student-initiated expressions to questions or assignments which reflect their beliefs or non-beliefs about a religious theme shall be accommodated. For example, students are free to express religious belief or non-belief in compositions, art forms, music, speech and debate.

You may view the policy online by following this link:

<http://knoxschools.org/cms/lib7/TN01917079/Centricity/domain/974/policies2016/I-431%20Religion%20in%20the%20Curriculum.pdf>



Please sign below and return this portion to class. Also, please include a phone number or email address where you can best be reached.

My parents/guardians and I have read and discussed the syllabus and rules for Ms. Gürtler’s class. I understand that I am expected to meet requirements for class and follow the rules.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone number/email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_