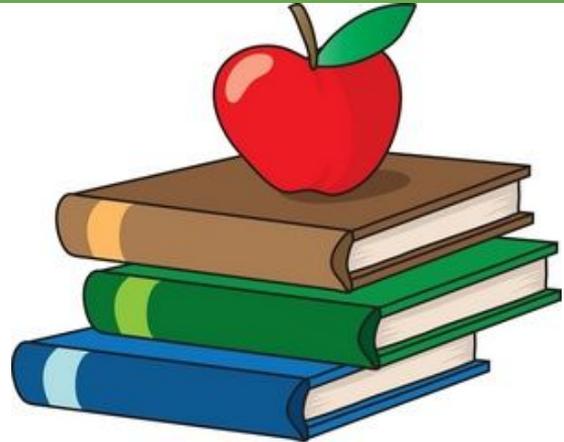# Welcome
to Ms. Mercker's Class

Curriculum Night 2017
C118

About Ms. Mercker

- This is my third year teaching 6th grade ELA at Eisenhower.

- I received my Master's in Teaching from Seattle University and my BA in Literature from WWU.

- I am passionate about language, literature, and learning!

- My mission: to foster the growth of each child academically, intellectually, socially and civically.

What's in a name?

ELA = English Language Arts

Block = 2 period class

English 6 = Class title on schedule

Central Text: SpringBoard

- Curriculum designed by College Board (AP)
- Common Core aligned
- Includes:
  - Embedded Assessments (Essays)
  - Focus on three modes of writing
  - Readings and analysis of various informational and literary texts
  - Academic and literary vocabulary

Additional Learning Activities

Weekly Assignments

- Greek & Latin Roots Vocabulary
- Article of the Week

Reading

- Independent Reading Projects
- Class Novel Studies/Genre Studies

WHY READ?

Ten Reasons

By Kelly Gallagher, Deeper Reading, 2004

Reading is rewarding.

20 minutes of reading per day per year...

...over a million words per year. [3]

Reading makes you a better writer.

"If you don't have the time to read, you don't have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that."
—Stephen King

"One characteristic emerges as a significant predictor of success...
Grit.
Grit is passion and perseverance for very long-term goals.
Grit is having stamina.
Grit is sticking with your future, day in, day out, not just for the week, not just for the month, but for years, and working really hard to make that future a reality."
(Angela Lee Duckworth)

Reading prepares you for the world of work.

"The 25 fastest growing professions have far greater than average literacy demands." [1]

Software Programmer
Physician Assistant
Personal Care Aide
Medical Secretary
Health Aide
Engineer
Veterinary Tech
Physical Therapist
Dental Hygienist
Network Analyst

Almost 50% of people with the lowest literacy skills live in poverty. [1]

Reading builds a mature vocabulary

Students who read for fun score higher on standardized writing tests. (Grade 12 in 2007; Scores range from 0-300) [2]

165 154 149 126
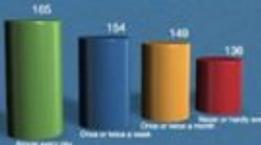
Reading is hard and "hard" is necessary.

14.5% of Americans with poor reading skills are underemployed. [1]

Reading opens the doors to college and beyond.

Only 52% of students in 2012 were ready for college-level reading as predicted by the ACT. [8]

"Reading is an essential component of college and workplace readiness." [8]

And 11% of entering college students must take remedial reading courses. [8]

70% of those taking the remedial classes fail to earn a college degree within eight years. [8]

Reading develops a moral compass.

"Reading has cognitive consequences that extend beyond its immediate task of lifting meaning from a particular passage." [9]

In the business world, a person typically spends two hours a day reading. [1]

Reading 25%
Other Tasks 75%

Reading well is financially rewarding.

25-40% of all children will have their educational careers cut short because they cannot read well enough. [1]

Reading arms you against oppression.

Over 60% of prison inmates are functionally illiterate. [4]

85% of juvenile offenders are unable to read well enough to participate in their case. [4]

Prisoners

Reading makes you smarter.

1 Gallagher, K. (2004). Deeper Reading: Comprehending Challenging Texts, 4-12. Portland, Me.: Stenhouse Publishers.

2 Gallagher, K. (2003). Readicide: How Schools Are Killing Reading and What You Can Do about It. Portland, Me.: Stenhouse Publishers.

3 Nagy, W., and Anderson, R. C. (1984). How many words are there in printed school English? Reading Research Quarterly, 19, 304-330.

4 Kirsch, I., Jungeblut, A., Jenkins, L., & Kolstad, A. (2002). Adult Literacy in America: A First Look at the Findings of the National Adult Literacy Survey. US Department of Education, Office of Educational Research and Improvement. Retrieved from http://nces.ed.gov/pubs93/93275.pdf

5 National Endowment for the Arts. (2007). To Read or Not To Read: A Question of National Consequence (Research Report #47). Retrieved from http://www.nea.gov/research/ToRead.pdf

6 The Literacy Company. (2013). Reading, Literacy & Education Statistics. Retrieved from http://www.readfaster.com/education_stats.asp

7 Biancarosa, G. and Snow, C. (2004). Reading Next: A Vision for Action and Research in Middle and High School Literacy. A Report to Carnegie Corporation of New York. Retrieved from http://www.all4ed.org/files/ReadingNext.pdf

8 ACT, Inc. (2006). Reading Between the Lines: What the ACT Reveals about College Readiness in Reading. Iowa City, IA: ACT, Inc. Retrieved from http://www.act.org/research/policymakers/reports/reading.html

9 Cunningham, A. E. and Stanovich, K. E. (1998). What Reading Does for the Mind. American Educator. Retrieved from http://www.csun.edu/~krowlands/Content/Academic_Resources/Reading/Useful%20Articles/Cunningham-What%20Reading%20Does%20for%20the%20Mind.pdf

Images:
http://www.istockphoto.com and http://office.microsoft.com

Why Read? by Kelly Gallagher. Designed by Janet Neyer and licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License.

Using the Planner (Ike Pages)

- Crucial to success in middle school

- Record the daily focus, reminders, and homework assignments

- Big project deadlines recorded in advance

- Please check at home!

- Teaches responsibility and allows students ownership over their education

Grading Philosophy and Policy

- Grades should reflect student learning.
- Therefore, grades are based on:
  - 70% **Summative Assessments** (essays, tests, projects)
  - 15% **Formative Assessments** (quizzes, rough drafts)
  - 15% **Daily Work** (smaller-scale tasks/homework)
- Summative Assessments can be redone for a higher grade.

LMS Gradebook Codes

- **M** = Missing - has not been turned in (or is missing a name)
- **TI** = Turned In*
- **R** = Retake quiz or test - after studying/practicing
- **AB** = Absent - needs to make up
- **TL** = Too Late - the unit has finished and/or over a month has passed
- **X** = Excused
- **Y/N** = Yes/No (used for record keeping)
- *Blank* = Not yet due or not yet checked

*TI is used either for work that has not yet been graded, or work that will not be given a number score

Grading cont'd

Other codes to know:

- ES = Exceeding Standard = 90%-100% = A
- AS = At Standard = 80%-89% = B
- NS = Nearing Standard = 70%-79% = C
- *BeS = Below Standard = 69% and below = D/F

Grading cont'd

*Students should re-assess if they receive an NS or BeS on a summative assessment.

To be eligible:
- Must complete all related missing work.
- Must talk to me about it and create a plan.

Communication

Email   **emercker@everettsd.org**

 I will do my best to respond within 24 hours

Remind app   **Text @merck to 81010**

 OR send an email merck@mail.remind.com

Website   **http://www.everettsd.org/eis-emercker**

 C118 Blog and other resources