Welcome to Sixth Grade ELA

# English Language Arts

I am pleased to be your new ELA teacher, and I am looking forward to a successful year. Sixth grade can be challenging, but with hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm there is much to enjoy along the way! This year we will read a variety of informational and literary texts. We will be challenging ourselves by reading complex material carefully. This may require us to reread text multiple times in order to fully comprehend the material. We will also be working collaboratively to discuss our readings by using evidence from the text. Writing and academic vocabulary will also be significant components of our curriculum.

# Website & Contact Information

This year we will be using the classroom website: [**www.thebrooksboard.weebly.com**](http://www.thebrooksboard.weebly.com) . This website will serve as a portal for communication between my students, their parents, and me. The website contains a Google Calendar that will keep dates for: homework, due dates, upcoming events, and etc. Also, the site contains a blog where I will post news, links, or just information that I would like to share. A large part of this website will be used to post in-class assignments for students to access from within the classroom. The assignments will of course be available outside of school as well.

My email address is: **brooksj1@pitt.k12.nc.us** . Email is the most efficient way to contact me. However, I am available by phone at 252-746-6742 from 9:30-10:00 and 12:00-12:25. I will certainly respond to emails and return phone calls as soon as possible.

# Classroom Behavior Expectations

1. Be Prepared: supplies, homework, & in class ON TIME
2. Be respectful: at ALL times & to ALL people and property
3. Listen to teacher and others when they are supposed to be the one talking
4. NO CELL phones allowed in the classroom (See Chicod Handbook)
5. Dress Code: Follow it!

# Independent Reading & Homework

Homework will most likely be given every night. This will be posted in the classroom and on the class website. In addition to homework, 6th graders are expected to read independently for at least 20 minutes a day. Reading daily will support both achieving Accelerated Reading (AR) goals and completion of a weekly interactive reading log.

Information about AR (also known as Renaissance Connect) will be provided once student reading levels have been assessed. Students will be given reading goals to work towards based on their specific needs.

The Interactive Reading Log (IRL) will be a way for students to respond to independent reading on a daily basis. This keeps them actively engaged in their reading and continuously monitors their comprehension. The IRL will begin after the first week of school.

# Grading System

Grades will be accessible through PowerSchool once the program is up and running for parents. Information concerning access will be given to you soon.

* Assessments 35% (Includes: Tests, Projects, & Writing Portfolio Entries)
* Interactive Reading Log 15%
* AR Participation 10%
* ELA Journal (daily self-starter) 10%
* Homework 10%
* Classwork & Quizzes 20%

I am delighted to be teaching ELA to this new group of 6th graders and look forward to working together in order to ensure success for each and every one!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Brooks

# Parents: 2014-2015 Contact Information Form for 6th Grade ELA

The home page of my website, [**www.thebrooksboard.weebly.com**](http://www.thebrooksboard.weebly.com), contains a form that you can easily access to provide some information about your child. Completing the form online is very simple and the quickest way to respond. However, if you are unable to respond online please let me know, so I can send home a printed copy of the form.

\_\_\_\_ I **am** able to respond online to the 2014-2015 Contact Information Form, and I have read the information in the ELA newsletter.

\_\_\_\_ I am **not** able to respond online and would like a paper-copy of the 2014-2015 Contact Form. I have read the information in the ELA newsletter.

**\*Please sign and return only this portion of the letter**