

Renaissance Academy 6th Grade Language Arts Syllabus

Information contained in this document is subject to change and comes in addition to the Renaissance Family Handbook, District Handbook, and Language Arts Notebook.

Contact Information:

- amanda.westman@arUSD.org
- 928-1950 School Office
- www.arUSD.org/renaissance School Website
- <http://hac.arUSD.org/homeaccess> Online grades

Office Hours:

Tuesday, 3:20 – 4:00

Thursday, 1:50 – 2:20

Anyone may stop by during these times without an appointment. If you need to see the teacher at another time, please call or email.

Class Content:

Renaissance Academy has adopted the Common Core standards. Families will receive information later in the year regarding which exam students will take.

Notebook:

The notebook is the main source of information, and is much more important than the textbook. Notebooks will be graded in class.

Homework:

Homework provides the chance to practice skills.

Late homework will not be accepted after the Wednesday of the week the work was due.

Exams:

Midterm and Final exams or projects are given every 6 weeks. A review sheet or project rubric will be given at least 1 week before the exam date.

Supplies:

Students should possess all of the items on the supplies list and replace or refill as necessary. Students should come to class with the following:

- Language Arts notebook.
- Pencil or pen (black or dark blue ink only).
- Current homework assignment.

- Headphones/earbuds (optional but encouraged).
- Anything on the list posted in the classroom.

Visitors:

Family members are welcome to visit the classroom at any time during the school day without a scheduled appointment. For safety reasons, every campus visitor needs to sign in at the office before proceeding to the classroom.

If you would like to observe a particular type of lesson, you may contact the teacher and schedule a time in advance.

Family members are also welcome to stop by after school to talk with teachers. Because we sometimes have to leave for meetings, you may want to schedule a time in advance.

How to help:

- Provide your child as much consistency as possible. Create morning and after-school routines and stick with them.
- Be sure that your child has enough paper, pencil lead, and glue sticks to make it through the year. Unprepared students become frustrated!
- Visit and volunteer in the classroom. Let the teachers know when you are available to help.
- Chaperone field trips.
- Donate supplies like tissue, hand sanitizer, and Clorox wipes to the classroom.
- Encourage your family to donate money to classroom DonorsChoose projects, the PTSA, and your child's Washington DC fund.



Technology Overview:

We will use several online tools to make learning more meaningful, relevant, and interesting. **Students are not required to have Internet access at home**, although some assignments will require computer access. If the student cannot use a computer at home, he/she should go to the library or ask Mrs. Westman for an after-school iPad lab appointment.

At the discretion of school staff, any offenses committed by the student via technology used in class may result in school consequences, including discipline referrals, removal of privileges, detention, and suspension.

iPad Pilot Project

Our class will use iPads to create personalized learning plans and collaborate on larger projects.

- All iPads will remain in the Language Arts classroom; students will not take them home.
- Only teacher-approved apps are allowed.
- Internet access on the iPad is filtered. Students who access proxy servers or work-arounds may be suspended.
- iPads are tools, not toys. Students will not play games during class time.
- All students will use iPads. Only in extreme circumstances, will the iPad be taken away as punishment.
- Students deserve educational freedom, but with that freedom comes responsibility. Our classes will include regular instruction on Internet safety, online ethics, and bullying prevention. You can help by talking with your child about these issues frequently. Our main phrases will be “be excellent to each other” and “just because you CAN doesn’t mean you SHOULD.”

Edmodo, <http://renaissance.edmodo.com>

Along with the iPads, we will be completing many activities online through Edmodo, a free and secure social learning network.

- Students can complete assignments and send messages to the teacher or the entire group. Students CANNOT send private messages to each other, and the teacher can review everything that is posted.
- Your parent account will allow you to send messages to your child and me, either together or individually. You can also view homework and due dates for work completed online. Student and parent passwords will be distributed by the teacher.
- Grades posted on Edmodo are not official. Assignment scores will be transferred to eSchoolPlus, where you can see them using the Home Access Center.
- Edmodo is accessible online and on any mobile device with Internet capabilities (they also offer a free iPhone and Android app). You can adjust your notification settings to receive alerts via text or email.

EduBlogs, renaissance408.edublogs.org

In order to make the writing process more interesting and meaningful, students will have the opportunity to post some of their writing on a class blog. This writing will be available on the internet for everyone to read, so students will be careful not to include personally identifiable information.

Email Accounts

In order to access collaborative tools, each student needs to create a personal email account through Gmail.

- Students must share their passwords with a parent and Mrs. Westman. Students may not change their passwords without the permission of a parent and teacher.
- Student must set all email to forward to either their parent’s email address or amanda.westman@gmail.com.

Personal Devices

Throughout the year, students may have the opportunity to use their cell phones and other personal electronic devices to complete class projects.

- Students will never be required to use their own devices.
- If students choose to bring and use their own devices, they will have the opportunity to secure them in a locked cabinet in the classroom that is only accessible by Mrs. Westman.
- Students will only be allowed to use personal devices with the teacher’s permission. Devices may not be used during breaks or other classes.
- It is a violation of California educational law (Edcode) for a student to record video or audio in the classroom without teacher permission (Section 51512)

Autorización para los Medios de Comunicación del Distrito Escolar Elemental de Alum Rock



Nombre del Estudiante: _____

Ley doy permiso a mi hijo(a) para que participe en el programa piloto iROCK iPad, incluyendo toda encuesta y prueba, efectuada de parte del Distrito Escolar Elemental de Alum Rock durante el ciclo escolar 2013-2014. Entiendo que las encuestas son anónimas y que las respuestas individuales de mi hijo(a) no serán divulgadas. La información que sea recolectada será únicamente para fines informativos.

Nuestra clase usará la tecnología como parte de la experiencia educativa habitual. Los estudiantes participarán en el uso de blogs, aplicaciones (apps), y correo electrónico. También habrá una página web de la clase con la intención de que los padres y los estudiantes la usen. Las fotos/videos y trabajos de los estudiantes podrán ser presentadas en la página web.

El uso de estos recursos será únicamente en correlación con las normas y actividades académicas.

- **Doy** permiso para que mi hijo(a) use un iPad como parte de su experiencia educativa.
- **Doy** permiso para que las fotos/videos/trabajos de mi hijo(a) sean incluidos como parte del proyecto.
- **Doy** permiso para que mi hijo(a) use blogs como parte del proceso académico.
- **Doy** permiso para que mi hijo(a) use correo electrónico como parte del proceso académico.
- **Doy** permiso para que mi hijo(a) use Edmodo, Edublogs, y otros recursos educativos.

Firma del Padre/Madre: _____

Alum Rock Union School District - 2930 Gay Avenue - San Jose, CA 95127 - (408) 928-6800



Alum Rock Union School District Media Release



Student Name: _____

My child has my permission to participate in the iROCK iPad pilot program, including any surveys and testing, conducted on behalf of the Alum Rock Union School District during the 2013-2014 school year. I understand that surveys are anonymous and my child's individual responses will not be identified. The information being gathered is for informational purposes only.

Our class will be using technology as part of the regular learning experience. Students will be involved in the use of blogs, apps, and email. There will also be a class web page that is intended for use by the students and parents. Pictures/video of the students and creations by the students may be presented on the page.

The use of these resources will only be used in correlation to academic standards and activities.

- I **grant** permission for my child to use an iPad as part of their learning experience.
- I **grant** permission for my child's photo/video/creations to be included as part of the project.
- I **grant** permission for my child to use blogs as part of the academic process.
- I **grant** permission for my child to use email as a part of the academic process.
- I grant permission for my child to use Edmodo, Edublogs, and other online educational resources.

Parent Signature: _____

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