Welcome to sixth grade English at Harper’s Choice Middle School. Sixth grade is an incredible adventure, filled with wonderful activities and experiences.  This year your child will study the Howard County 6th grade English Language Arts curriculum which is divided into three main units: *Coming of Age*, *Courage*, and *Heroes*.

In addition to these units, your child will complete many activities that focus on writing, grammar, reading, speaking, and listening. These activities are geared towards helping your child become a stronger reader, better writer, and creative thinker. Also, your child will learn how to be an independent learner!

In order for this to happen, here are some things you need to know about this class:

**Grading**

All assignments are graded on a point system. Each assignment has a specific number of points that contribute to the overall quarterly grade. Grades are determined by the total number of points earned out of the total number of points possible. The following grade scale is used:

 89.5% - 100% = A

 79.5% - 89.4% = B

 69.5% - 79.4% = C

 59.5% - 69.4% = D

 0% - 59.4% = E

**Late Work**

If your child is absent, s/he has the same number of days absent to make up the missing work. For example, if a student is absent for 2 classes, s/he will have 2 extra classes to make up any assignments. Please encourage your child to find out the missing work prior to class, either through contacting classmates or emailing me. Unexcused late work is accepted for up to a week after the work is assigned with a 50% reduction in points. Although I will remind students occasionally, *it is each student’s responsibility* to keep on top of all work.

**Materials**

A successful student is one who is prepared for **every** class. Because this is a writing class, students will need to be prepared with writing materials. The following items must be available throughout the year.

* A section in the 3-ring binder (with dividers)
* Lined, loose-leaf paper (will need to be restocked throughout the year)
* A constant supply of pencils
* A blue or black ink pen
* Personal reading book (P.R.B.)
* Novels (as we read them throughout the year)

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**Daily Student expectations**

# Doing well is no secret: Work hard. Ask questions. Respect others. Behave appropriately. Be prepared to learn when coming to class. Leave the drama outside the door. Bring your materials. Arrive on time. Dress appropriately. Keep the classroom clean.

**How Parents can help**

Your child cannot succeed without your help at home. Help them with the new responsibilities of middle school. They must get their work to school and turned in on time. Look over their agenda books; be aware of tests dates and when assignments are due. Encourage them to come to ask questions BEFORE the due date on an assignment. Students must continually work hard and their work must show their effort. With your help at home and with my guidance at school, your child will navigate beautifully through 6th grade English.

**FINAL NOTE**

Feel free to contact me with any concerns as soon as possible at lisa\_griffin@hcpss.org. Use Aspen’s Parent Portal to see your child’s grades and keep track of assignments. Also let me know if anything happens that may affect your child’s performance in class. I am here to demand a lot, but I am also here to help your child succeed. With your child’s effort, my guidance, and your support, I know that they will.

I look forward to meeting you at **Back to School Night on Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.**

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Griffin*

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Please sign and return:

Signing below acknowledges that you and your child have received and read these guidelines.

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 Student name Parent name

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