**Hilda Walker Middle School**

**6th Grade Reading/Language Arts**

**Mrs. Becker 2018-2019**

**Course Description:**

The sixth grade English/Language Arts course provides a balance of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language skills.  Students will progress through the writing process as they plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish their own specific types of writing.  These writing types include arguments, informative/explanatory texts and narratives.  Students are required to draw upon and write about evidence from literary and informational texts.  Because of the focus of writing in most forms of inquiry, short research projects are infused throughout the year which answer a question, draw on several sources, and sharpen the focus based on the research findings.  Through their writing tasks, students will recognize variations from Standard English in his or her own and others’ writing and speaking, and use this knowledge to improve their language use.

The sixth grade Reading course teaches essential comprehension skills and strategies while students read closely and cite evidence from grade-level fiction and nonfiction to support an analysis of what the materials say.   Students apply skills they learned in earlier grades to make sense of longer, more challenging books and articles.  This includes learning about how authors try to influence readers and then find reasons to support their ideas.  Students develop a rich vocabulary of complex and sophisticated words and use them to speak and write more precisely and coherently.  Including but not limited to skills necessary for formal presentations, students develop a range of broadly useful oral communication and interpersonal skills.  They must learn to work together, express and listen carefully to ideas, integrate information from oral, visual, quantitative, and media sources, evaluate what they hear, use media and visual displays strategically to help achieve communicative purposes, and adapt speech to context and task.

**COURSE FOCUS:**

Students will read and comprehend text across the curriculum and will read and respond to a variety of text. Students will also write for a variety of audiences, purposes, and contexts while applying their reading and writing skills to demonstrate learning.

**COURSE GOALS:**

* Analyze how chapters of a book, scenes of a play, or stanzas of a poem fit into the overall structure of the piece and contribute to the development of ideas or themes.
* Evaluate the argument and specific claims in written materials or a speech, and distinguish claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.
* Present claims and finding to others orally, sequencing ideas logically, and accentuating main ideas or themes.
* Write arguments that provide clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources.
* Write brief reports that examine a topic, have a clear focus, and include relevant facts, details, and quotations.
* Review and paraphrase key ideas and multiple perspectives of a speaker.
* Determine the correct meaning of a word based on the context in which it is used (e.g. the rest of the sentences or paragraph; a word’s position or function in a sentence).
* Students will be exposed to Greek/Latin Roots weekly.