

*Greater Atlanta Christian School*  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced Language Arts  
Syllabus 2008-2009

Ms. Ruby McLean  
School Phone: 770-243-2312  
School e-mail: [rubymc@greateratlantachristian.org](mailto:rubymc@greateratlantachristian.org)

*“...let us lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter...” Hebrews 12: 1-2*

**Course goals and objectives include the development of the following:**

1. Communication skills both written and oral
2. Vocabulary Development (heavy emphasis)
3. Independent Reading
4. Accelerated Reader participation—15 points **per** grading period (minimum)
5. Bloom’s higher order of thinking skills
6. Responding creatively to literature

**Content to be covered:**

1. Literature studies:
  - Student-chosen books-Accelerated Reader
  - Literature Circles
  - Short Stories
  - Novel/book studies by class
2. Various modes of writing
3. Grammar (heavy emphasis)—Daily Grammar Practice
4. Program: *Writing to Learn*
5. *Wordly Wise*

**Materials:**

1. Reading/English notebook with dividers
2. Writing instruments—black/blue pen, red pen/pencil, and pencil
3. Any special items—student will be notified well in advance

**Grading:**

*\*Grades are weighted and vary according to the difficulty of the assignment. For example, if a quiz is worth 50 points, the student’s grade might be noted as 45 because 45 of the 50 possible points was scored.*

1. Daily assignments—10-25 points
2. Quizzes—25-50 points
3. Tests and projects— 50-100 points
4. Daily work will be accepted one day late **only** for a grade of “50”
5. Projects will be accepted one day late **only** for a grade of “80”
6. Evaluation will also include **positive** class participation

**Help Session:** Wednesday, AM officially—I will also be available per student-arranged time. I arrive early and am delighted to help on any days that I do not have meetings. I will also help in the afternoons. Please prearrange.

### **Management Plan:**

1. Respect (**the key**)—for others, property, and ideas. **This is also my personal commitment.**
2. Responsibility—bring your supplies, clean up after yourself, and complete/turn in your work. There is a turn in box for each period.
3. Obedience—**While I want you to understand “why,” there will be times that you will be expected to obey because I am the teacher. Refer to rule number 1.**

### **Consequences:**

1. Verbal warning
2. Conference
3. Communication with parents
4. Detention
5. Referral to principal

**\*The teacher reserves the right to send the student to the principal immediately for any action or behavior that is considered severe.**

### **Expectations:**

1. **The student is responsible** for all makeup work when absent—including arranging to make up tests. The student will be given one day per days absent to make up work. **\*If this is a problem because of extenuating circumstances, see me.**
2. AR book or book chosen for independent reading should be brought to class daily. **Friday** will be designated independent reading as well as vocabulary quiz/test day.
3. AR grades are given per six weeks. They accrue exponentially. Therefore, they can accrue for you or against you.
4. Class begins the minute the bell rings. You will be given time to gather your books, etc. at the end of class. **Be on time.**
5. Take care of business between classes.
6. Good behavior is simply expected. By the time a student reaches sixth grade, I do not feel that each expectation has to be delineated.
7. **Daily reading.**

Dear Parent,

Thank you for the opportunity to teach your child. I love learning and find young people delightful. My commitment is to try to challenge your child and encourage an excitement for learning that will continue as a life long process. GACS is a great place to be; let's have a wonderful year. Please read the above syllabus, discuss it with your child, sign, and return the following forms.

Sincerely,

*Ruby McLean*

I, (student's name) \_\_\_\_\_, have read the syllabus for 6<sup>th</sup> grade Advanced Language Arts and agree to strive to meet the expectations for this class. I also attest that I will follow the GACS honor code.

***GACS Honor Code:** In order to maintain honor in my relationships, I agree to do what is right, to speak the truth, and to strive for integrity in all that I do. Therefore, I will not be involved in lying, cheating, or stealing. If I do vary from the path of honor, I will accept the correction from others and the established consequences of this school. Honor is a goal that I seek to attain.*

**Student signature** \_\_\_\_\_

I, (parent's name) \_\_\_\_\_, have observed that my child has read and understood the expectations for 6<sup>th</sup> grade Advanced Language Arts.

**Parent signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*The teacher reserves the right to alter/change the syllabus to better serve students.**