

Welcome to 6th Grade Readers Workshop with Ms. Fontana

In 6th grade, English Language Arts is broken into two separate sections, **Readers Workshop** and **Writers Workshop**. The classes may be taught by different ELA 6 teachers, but the structure and goals are the same. The workshop model allows students to read and write what they want. This year, we will work through units like a deep study of characters, social issues, nonfiction, fantasy, and poetry.

Quarter 1 Readers: The first quarter is all about characters, and getting ourselves in a good reading routine! Students will spend lots of time diving into “Just Right” books and getting to know the characters that live within them! We will keep thinking about how to show our thinking with evidence from the story as a way of backing up our ideas!

Homework is always reading at least 20 minutes outside of school!

About Ms. Fontana (she/her)

This is my twelfth year as a teacher here. I teach Readers Workshop, a 7th grade IB-MYP Design elective, and I am the IB-MYP coordinator for our school.

You can contact me best by email (elisabeth.fontana@spps.org); or by texting or calling my Google Voice number 612-548-4517.

Grading:

There are two grading categories for our courses. All assignments will be one of these two grading categories.

Formative Assessments (40% of final grade): This includes daily assignments/practice assignments, jotting about reading

Summative Assessments (60% of final grade): This includes projects or long-term assignments. Assignments in this category are to measure how much you’ve learned, often at the end of a unit.

Grading in this class will be on scale of 0-8. See descriptions in the table below for each level of achievement.

IB Achievement Level	8-7 Excellent	6-5 Substantial	4-3 Adequate	2-1 Limited	0
Letter Grade	A to A-	B+ to B-	C+ to C-	D+ to D-	N
Description of student work	Exceeds standards detailed, thorough, perceptive, effective, and clear	Meets standards considerable, sufficient, and usually/ mostly meets requirements	Reaching standards meets some of the requirements or meets them sometimes; shows some understanding	Incomplete simple, inconsistent and either only begins to or meets few of the requirements	Below standards/ Missing Student work does not meet any part of the requirements/ standards

Classroom Expectations:

In my class, students are expected to follow these guidelines. These are both my own expectations, as well as common expectations for all students in classrooms and school spaces.

Respect: We respect all students and staff. We treat all people with kindness and inclusivity. Anyone choosing to show disrespect toward any member of our classroom is not welcomed in our space.

Technology use: We use our school iPads appropriately for school use. We also have our phones out of sight, in a locker or somewhere else where it won't be used in class. We take care of our iPads and keep them safe.

Giving our best effort: No matter how we are feeling each day, when we enter the class, we make sure we are trying our best. I am always here to help students with anything they need, but we always give our best effort.

Reading: We can always be better readers! We need to read as much as possible in class and make sure we are prepared by bringing our independent reading book to class every day.

Homework: Students are expected to read 20 minutes per day at home from their independent reading book. Please help support this expectation with your student. I know there might be some days when this isn't possible, but it is a good habit.

Failure to follow these expectations will lead to different consequences, depending on the situation. Some consequences include:

- Phone call or email home
- Meetings with Intervention Specialist (Ms. Lopez) or 6th grade Assistant Principal (Mr. Chlebeczek)
- iPad use taken away or limited
- Other consequences depending on the situation