

## Horizons Language Arts

Mrs. Turner

### **Gifted and Talented Mission Statement:**

Our mission is to assist students to value learning and the English/Language Arts curriculum. Students will work toward success in school endeavors, their society and work habits within a challenging and nurturing learning environment. We work in partnership with parents and the community in order to prepare students for a diverse and ever-evolving society. Communication and cooperation between home and school are important factors in aiding highly capable students to develop their abilities.

### **Who are Gifted Students?**

The South Carolina State Board of Education recognizes the need to provide gifted education services to identified students in grades 1-12. Gifted and talented students are those who are identified in grades 1-12 as demonstrating high performance ability or potential in academic and/or artistic areas. These students require an educational program beyond that normally provided by the general school program in order to achieve their potential.

### **Gifted Characteristics:**

Certain characteristics and behaviors can often recognize gifted students. Gifted students can be found in all ethnic and racial groups. Our Horizons ELA program focuses on three ability areas: 1) general intellectual ability, 2) ability in a specific academic subject and 3) creative/productive thinking ability. A child who is unusually able in one or more of these three areas often...

1. Has an unusually good vocabulary.
2. Has quick mastery and recall of factual information.

3. Has lots of information on a variety of topics.
4. Is alert and observant (usually sees more or gets more out of a story, film, etc., than others).
5. Reads a great deal on his/her own.
6. Reasons things out, recognizes relationships, comprehends meanings and makes logical associations.
7. Works persistently on things that interest him/her.
8. Is easily bored with routine tasks.
9. Prefers to work independently; requires little direction from teachers.
10. Strives for perfection; is self-critical.
11. Often is self-assertive, may be stubborn in his/her beliefs.
12. Is curious about many things, asks questions about anything and everything.
13. Reveals originality in written, oral, artistic expression.
14. Offers unusual, unique or clever answers.
15. Is uninhibited in giving opinions.
16. Is often concerned with different ways of doing "things" (will modify, improve or adapt).
17. Displays a keen sense of humor.
18. Is nonconforming; accepts disorder, does not fear being different.

-Joseph S. Renzulli, Professor-  
University of Connecticut

## Program Goals:

Spartanburg County School District Six recognizes that gifted students possess unique abilities and talents as individual as each student. The program's curriculum is designed to meet those needs and encourage intellectual, emotional and social development.

The Horizons English/Language Arts program will emphasize three main goals:

1. **SKILLS** -

Students will demonstrate critical thinking and problem solving, strong communication skills, strong organizational skills, time management and study skills.

2. **KNOWLEDGE** -

Students will expand exploration in content areas, preparation for advanced level instruction, and self-awareness of areas of giftedness as well as weaknesses.

3. **BEHAVIORS** - Students will demonstrate enthusiasm for learning, academic independence, willingness to take risks, and tolerance of self and others.

## Projects

Students will be required to demonstrate knowledge in the form of projects throughout the school year. These projects will be content based and require creativity to be successful. As each project is given, notification will be sent home and a parent signature required. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

## Absences:

**Students who are absent from class are expected to make up any missed assignments or tests.** Failure to complete and submit assignments as well as complete missed tests and exams will result in a zero. Students will have a maximum of **five** days to complete and submit assignments and tests to the teacher. **It is the responsibility of the student to inquire and submit assignments.** The teacher will not necessarily ask students for missing work, as it is an expectation that students begin developing responsibility for academic independence.

## Grading:

Assessment is an important component in our classrooms. Grading is based on an individual's ability and his or her responses to assignments. All student grades will be based on required work. Teachers will follow the school-wide grading scale:

100-93	A
85-92	B
77-84	C
70-76	D
69-below	F

## Expectations of the Classroom

1. Be prepared for class.  
**\*\*Make sure you have what you need BEFORE entering the classroom.**
2. SHOW respect for yourself and others.
3. Follow directions the first time they are given.
4. Clean up after yourself.
5. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.

## Communication:

What makes a special program work is the mutual respect and support we have for one another as teachers, students, and parents. We value your insights and concerns when problems occur, and would like to request that:

1. Students and parents discuss concerns before they become major problems.
2. If there are questions, please contact the teacher at school (576-3500).  
You may also email your child's teacher at: [turnerjc@spartanburg6.k12.sc.us](mailto:turnerjc@spartanburg6.k12.sc.us)
3. We are also willing to set up a conference at your convenience to discuss concerns and your child's progress.
4. Students are **required** to have their planners signed **nightly** by the parent to ensure all assignments are complete.

## Description of Supplies

- **Pencils** are required in my class. A 10-point deduction will be given on all graded work if a pen is used.
- **2-inch binder, dividers, and loose-leaf paper** will be used for all content classes, therefore, organization is essential.
- **1 pocket folder with prongs** will contain your child's reading log as well as their weekly progress report.

## Layout of Grades

Quiz- counts one time

Test-counts two times

\*\*Project grades will vary based on the project itself

## Novel List for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Students may purchase their own copies of the novels to be read in class.

The Call of the Wild by Jack London ISBN 0812504321

A dog, part St. Bernard and part Scotch shepherd, is abducted in California and taken to the Klondike gold fields where he eventually becomes the leader of a wolf pack.

The Reluctant God by Pamela Service ISBN 0449703398

While his brother prepares to mount the throne of Egypt as the next member of the Twelfth Dynasty, the teenage prince Ameni is sealed in a secret tomb in a state of suspended animation, to be revived four thousand years later by the fourteen-year-old daughter of an archeologist.

The Edge on the Sword by Rebecca Tingle ISBN 0412500585

In ninth-century Britain, fifteen-year-old Aethelflaed, daughter of King Alfred of West Saxony, finds she must assume new responsibilities much sooner than expected when she is betrothed to Ethelred of Mercia in order to strengthen a strategic alliance against the Danes.

**OR**

The King's Shadow by Elizabeth Alder ISBN 0440220114

After he is orphaned and has his tongue cut out in a clash with the bullying sons of a Welsh noble, Eryn is sold as a slave and serves many masters, from the gracious Lady Swan Neck to the valiant Harold Godwinson, England's last Saxon king.

You may wish to order these books online at:

[Barnesandnoble.com](http://Barnesandnoble.com)

## Outside Reading Requirement Project

The gifted and talented students are expected to fulfill **three** outside reading requirements within the school year (**one novel every 12 weeks**). **Failure to fulfill the requirement will result in a zero.** At least **two** of the **three** novels should be a classic and must be read in its unabridged form. Novels can be checked out of the school library as well as the public library. The assignment form will follow at a later date.

### First Twelve Weeks (Choose one)

\*Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle, \*Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell, \*Indian and the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks

### Second Twelve Weeks

You will select from the South Carolina Junior Book Nominees for 2005-2006

### Third Six Weeks (Choose one)

\*Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson or \*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

\*Classic Literature

## Homework/ Dailies

As always, homework is an essential part of the learning process and will be given each night. Students will be required to read **each** night for 20 minutes and have their reading log signed. The reading log will be graded on Thursday for a quiz grade; each night your child has failed to read will be a 10-point deduction. **Please help your child understand this is not extra credit, but a REQUIREMENT!** In addition to the reading log, students will have vocabulary enhancement nightly. English, writing, and literature homework will be given as needed.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions throughout the year. I look forward to working with both you and your child. It is going to be a great year!!

Thank you,

[Turnerjc@spartanburg6.k12.sc.us](mailto:Turnerjc@spartanburg6.k12.sc.us)



