

MEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT

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GRADE 6
ESSENTIAL LEARNINGS

This guide provides an overview of what a **sixth grade** student should know and be able to do in English/Language Arts by the completion of the school year.

The Medford Public Schools is committed to providing all students with the academic and problem-solving skills essential for personal development, responsible citizenship and life-long learning. The districtwide curriculum goals for all grades preK-12 are as follows:

- To develop high standards and expectations for all students
- To incorporate a balanced core of critical, essential learning that reflects national standards and the state curriculum frameworks for each discipline
- To develop competency in communication, thinking, problem solving research and other critical skills
- To connect learning to relevant situations and experiences outside the school setting
- To measure student learning through multiple types of assessments including the MCAS
- To integrate the curriculum, wherever possible, across subjects and grade levels
- To effectively integrate technology into the curriculum
- To recognize and respect the different needs, interests and talents of all students

In addition to reading and writing daily, students will be able to...

- Demonstrate an understanding of conventions within language study: dialects, clauses, phrases
- Construct sentence combining skills
- Demonstrate in their writing – style, complexity, organization, transitions
- Apply appropriate grammar/usage
- Demonstrate knowledge of all parts of speech
- Show an understanding of subject/verb agreement
- Apply correct capitalization
- Apply correct punctuation
- Edit for correct punctuation
- Demonstrate appropriate spelling strategies
- Apply new vocabulary
- Read critically to extend understanding through synonyms, antonyms, homonyms,
- Construct and apply simile/metaphor, idiom, analogy
- Construct and apply structural analysis: root words, affixes, and derivatives
- Write in a variety of genre: short story, drama, poetry
- Write to respond to literature
- Develop an understanding of author's craft: e.g., irony, foreshadowing, flashback, point of view, etc.
- Construct meaning through kinds of writing: narrative, persuasive, poetry, descriptive, etc.
- Extend understanding through similes, metaphors, idiom, imagery
- Construct knowledge through critical reading
- Revise to clarify communication
- Demonstrate oral language by presenting information effectively
- Identify persuasive techniques
- Develop technology skills by creating a production