Castillero Middle School Instructor: Chris Knoblaugh

<https://www.sjusd.org/castillero/> Student Teacher: Hana Silverstein

2019-2020 cknoblaugh@sjusd.org

6th Language Arts Phone: (408) 535-6385 x52203

**I. Communication**

My e-mail address is listed above. The best way to reach me is through email.

Infinite Campus is the on-line grading program used by all teachers. Progress reports are sent home every six weeks. To check grade progress on a more frequent basis, go to the Castillero Web Site (address above) and you will be guided through how to access Infinite Campus using the Parent Portal. If you have difficulty accessing your account, please direct your questions to our technology support specialist.

Your student’s Binder Reminder is a place to write down their homework daily. It is also a communication tool between the instructor, the student, and parents. Please check it several times a week to stay informed with your student’s homework. Homework is posted daily in the classroom, and online at my classroom website. One assignment is due each week. The website is updated in advance to help you plan your vacations and trips. <https://mrsknoblaugh.weebly.com> Click on the button at the top labeled “HOMEWORK” to check the calendar.

**II. Course Catalog Descriptions**

Language Arts is the study of the English language, including: grammar, vocabulary, writing, reading, language conventions, listening, and speaking. These skills are taught within a literature-based framework that covers a variety of literary forms, such as short stories, journals, drama, poetry, and non-fiction essays.

6th grade:

Students will study the following Language Arts units:

Unit 1: Fictional Narrative

Unit 2: Central Ideas in Non-Fiction

Unit 3: Argument

Unit 4: Comparing Themes Across Genres

Unit 5: Research

Unit 6: Shakespeare

**III. Standards**

For a complete listing of the Common Core State Standards visit:

[**http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/index.asp**](http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/index.asp)

**IV. Textbooks/On-Line Curriculum Support**

SpringBoard: English Language Arts (6th grade edition)

Selected core novels and novels chosen by teacher and student

“Destiny Quest”, our on-line card catalog program, accessed through the Castillero Web page

Achieve 3000 – accessed through the school website

**V. Length of Courses**

One Year/2-semesters each

**VI. Grading**

The grading scale is:

100-90%= A 89-80%= B 79-70%= C 69-60%= D <59%= F

Assignments are weighted and receive points for submission, completion, and quality. I frequently use rubrics to evaluate student work, and ask students to reflect on their own work by evaluating themselves according to a project-specific rubric. Assignments will fall into one of three areas and are weighted as follows:

**Tests & Quizzes: 50%**

**Classwork: 30%**

**Projects: 10%**

**Homework: 10%**

**VII. Independent Reading**

Reading Homework: Throughout the school year, students will be expected to complete independent reading as part of their daily homework. Books may vary from class novels assigned by me, or student-selected books. Reading response logs of various types are completed for these works. Completing extra reading logs is the only way to earn extra credit from me.

**VIII. Late Work**

Late work will be accepted, but it will be **reduced one letter grade** for each day that it is late. All work must be turned in on time to earn full credit unless:

-you have a note from a parent/guardian with an acceptable reason why it is late

In case of illness, the online homework calendar will show the work that was missed.

**VIII. Absences**

If you miss school on a day when there is a test or an assignment due, it is expected that you will turn in or make up the test on the day you return. It is the ***student’s responsibility*** to see the teacher and ask for any missed assignments. A note from a parent/guardian can allow for additional time to prepare, if necessary.

**IX. Extra Help/Homework Center**

If a student needs extra help, please ask for it. The student may also see me during snack, lunch, or after school by arrangement. The homework center meets in the media center Monday thru Thursday. A late bus is available to take students home. Teachers and other educators are available in the homework center to help students with their homework. Homework Center is a valuable resource for students to receive assistance and have a focused, quiet place to work. Parents must sign their students up for Homework Center in order to use it.

**X. Behavioral Expectations and Discipline**

Every student has the right to learn in a respectful, responsible, and safe learning environment. In order for teachers to teach and students to engage, all members of the classroom must abide by the following:

1. Respect yourself.

2. Respect others

3. Be responsible for your actions and your words.

4. Follow the school and district rules as listed in the Binder Reminder and the SJUSD

Student Handbook.

Castillero follows the PBIS rule system.

Violations of these rules will result in the following:

First Offense: Verbal warning/In classroom correction

Second Offense: Individual conference with student and parent call/email

Third Offense: Referral to administration (handled by administrators)

An incidence that violates EdCode will receive immediate referral to the administration.

Positive Rewards

Good Grades earned

Honor Roll recognition

Character Awards

Cobra Cash

Extracurricular sports

**Please complete the “read and received” form on the next page.**

Please complete and return with both signatures for 10 points of extra credit.

I have read the syllabus and agree to abide by the stated rules and policies.

Student Signature

Parent Signature and Date