LRSD Curriculum is outlined for teachers in detailed curriculum maps. This document is an overview of the curriculum to which all students in the LRSD have access with appropriate modifications, support, enrichment and remediation when needed. As a rule, teachers may add to but not subtract from this curriculum. We integrate the reading and writing, speaking and listening, and research in the secondary curriculum. Grammar is included in the writing continuously.

Reading Selections: This nine weeks students will study the genres of fantasy and drama. Novels: The Hobbit, by J.R.R. Tolkien. Short Stories: “Mowgli’s Brothers”, “Greyling”. Drama: “The Phantom Toolbooth”. Data and charts: use of own data to draw conclusions about progress made. Note: In middle schools, Accelerated Reader is used to motivate students for independent reading and is not part of the curriculum.

Discussion Themes: Discussion of risk taking and courage through novel’s plot advancement; review simile, metaphor idioms and discuss analogy and personification; discuss human traits in non-human characters; discuss theme and conflict in reading; drama as a genre; characters’ actions and motives; personal growth over the sixth grade year.

Writing: As they read and discuss, students will write the following

- Journal Response to Reading throughout novel
- Chart for comparing fantasy to own world
- Graphic organizer for conflicts and resolution
- Essay response with support on Bilbo’s bravery using figurative language
- Open-response type questions and answers
- Quick write (15 min.) on personal changes in grade 6
- Collaborative summary of scene from play to act out
- Summary of year’s growth in writing using own test data and other support

Writing Conventions: Specifically taught this quarter and integrated with previously taught skills are prewriting for a composition; peer editing, self-editing; topic sentences, conclusions, supporting details in paragraphs. As needed during writing (editing and revision) other skills are addressed. Grammar skills include all parts of speech. Writing conventions (grammar, usage, mechanics) are best taught in conjunction with student’s own work. Portfolios are finalized and prepared to move to seventh grade teachers. All students maintain a writing portfolio, which follows students from 6th grade to graduation. These portfolio pieces are indicated with √ above.

Vocabulary Skills: Vocabulary is taught in four ways: Academic vocabulary terms specific to literacy; specified and as needed contextual vocabulary from reading; study of Greek and Latin root words and affixes; and whenever clarity is needed. Students are taught using a variety of strategies that allow them to use the terms, recognize the new words in context, and demonstrate mastery in daily work. Word walls are tools for building vocabulary in each classroom.