



Teacher: Ms. Scott
Course: ELA Core 7
Room: E7
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Welcome to the 21/22 school year! As your student's ELA teacher, I would like to invite you to contact me if you should have any concerns about your student throughout the year. I am sure that by working together we can make this experience a valuable one for your student. I would like you to know and be familiar with my classroom expectations and policies so please read this syllabus and go over it with your student. I can be contacted via email and parent square. Please allow up to 24 business hours for a response although most times my response time is sooner.

Absences/ Late & Make Up Work

It is extremely important that you are at school/logged on every day. If you miss school/class for any reason, please be sure to see/ contact me for any work that you missed. In order to receive full credit, the student must return missed assignments the following day if he/she was absent one day. If a student is absent for two days, the student will have two days to turn in the assignments and so forth. As your students' teacher, it is my intention to provide engaging and rigorous work. I encourage your child to be responsible and have a positive work ethic. Therefore, assignments are given to enhance your students' learning. With that in mind, students are encouraged to turn work in on time. However, students who submit late assignments will have 10% deducted from the final score. Late work may be submitted while we are still in a certain unit. Once we complete the summative assessment for the unit, students will no longer be allowed to submit any late assignment from that particular unit. Students will also have one opportunity to resubmit an assignment if they are unsatisfied with their grade as well as one opportunity to retake any quizzes all to be completed before the unit ends.

Grading

Grades are updated in Aeries in the 2nd and 4th weeks of each month. The breakdown for class grades is as follows:

Formative Assessments

30%

Classwork and homework assignments along with participation will be included in this category. This category will be used to measure a student's knowledge of a skill that we are continuing to learn

Summative Assessments

50%

This category includes the end of the unit culminating learning tasks (Essays, Final Assessments, Reports) and post assessments.

Learning Tasks

20%

This includes projects that we will be completing, as well as the tasks that are included in each unit (minimum of three per unit) as we work toward the culminating learning task.

Total

100%

A = 90 – 100%

B = 80 – 89%

C = 70 – 79%

D = 60 – 69%

F = 0 – 59%

Supplies

In order to maximize learning, students will need to come to class equipped with the necessary supplies EVERY DAY. Students will need the following items to be successful:

- 3-Inch Binder
- College-Ruled Paper
- Planner for recording homework (school provides one at the beginning of the year).
- Multi Colored Highlighters
- Spiral Notebook (specifically for ELA)
- Plenty of Sharpened Pencils and Pens (preferably stored in a pencil pouch in their binder)

Please let me know if you are having trouble getting the supplies that you need.

Units of Study

We will be following a district outlined curriculum for the school year that is separated into 8 units. They are as follows: (Dates and time frames are subject to change)

Unit 1: Informational Reading/ Informative & Explanatory Writing

Unit 2: Informational & Literary Reading/ Explanatory Writing

Unit 3: Informational Reading/ Narrative Writing

Unit 4: Literary Reading/ Narrative Writing

Unit 5: Informational Reading/ Argumentative Writing

Unit 6: Literary Reading/ Argumentative Writing

Unit 7: Informational Reading/ Narrative Writing

Unit 8: Literary Reading/ Informative Writing

*These units are outlined in our district curriculum. Specifics about each unit will be shared at the beginning of the unit. The timeframes of completing the units are subject to change as well as the order in which they are completed. We may not get through all units in their entirety. Some units can also be replaced by novels or short story units, using the stories listed above.

Literary Selections

Reading is an invaluable skill that you will need to have continued success in school. Reading will be a required and regular part of class. You will be expected to have a reading book with you regularly. Occasionally we will have reading time embedded into class, but it is often assigned as homework. Please check your planner nightly to make sure that you do not overlook important assigned reading. In addition to regularly embedded short informational and literary texts, we will read several selections and novels to help support the themes in our curricular units. This years reading selections may include:

- The Lesson by Toni Cade Bambara
- Wonder by R.J Palacio
- A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle
- The Outsiders by Walter Dean Myers
- Amigo Brothers by Piri Thomas
- The Friday Everything Changed by Anne Hart
- Seventh Grade by Gary Soto

Literary/Film Analysis Parent Authorization

These books have been chosen because they illustrate themes, figurative language, dialogue, and characterization, and key elements of interpreting informational text as outlined in the Common Core 7th Grade State Standards. Furthermore, A Wrinkle in Time, The Outsiders, and Wonder also have film interpretations that are rated PG-13. * If any other film interpretations are considered I will let parents know prior to showing them. These adaptations help us to also analyze the differences between a text and its film adaptation per the Common Core State Standards, which call for the comparison of film adaptations of novels to the original text. Please sign below to indicate that you consent to your child viewing the film versions of these movies after the in depth study of the novel. The viewing will be academic in purpose and culminate in discussion and analysis of differences between the versions.

Parent/Guardian Name

Signature

Date

I authorize my student to view the above outlined films during the 2021-2022 school year.

Each of these novels/ units is rich with theme, characterization, figurative language, and imagery. One of the challenges that we face in teaching modern adolescent minds, is finding engaging texts that will be appropriate for middle school students. We are continually evaluating texts and in doing this we have found that occasional use of profanity is a technique that the majority of authors employ in the creation of texts, as a way of using language to develop characters, convey images and meaning. When teaching the texts in class we will address this language using an academic and standards based approach. Please sign below to indicate that you consent to your child reading the pre-selected novels during the course of the school year.

Parent/Guardian Name

Signature

Date

I authorize my student to read the above-mentioned novels during the 2021-22 school year.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

1. Respect yourself, the teacher & others

- Show respect for the teacher, yourself and others at all times.
- Respect others' property. Avoid touching or writing on anything that does not belong to you (including desks, textbooks, teacher's belongings, walls, etc.). Don't expect that others will clean-up your messes. Please pick-up after yourself.
- Be a kind person.
- Maintain appropriate distance
- MASK OVER MOUTH AND NOSE AT ALL TIMES.

2. Put forth your best effort at all times

- Always do your own best work.
- ASK QUESTIONS
- Put quality ahead of just getting it done.

3. Be prepared for class each day

- Have a fully charged laptop
- ELA journal
- More than one pencil
- Erasers

4. Follow directions when given

- When directions are given, do your best to follow them the first time. If you are confused or have questions, ASK. I would rather have you stop class to clarify than be off task while everyone else is working.

5. Pay attention, participate and ask questions

- Engage in what is going on in the classroom. If you have a question, ASK it! Otherwise, I might not know until the test that you did not understand something. There are no stupid questions, and chances are, if you are wondering about it, someone else in the class is to. Be proactive about your learning and don't be afraid to ask for help. If you feel most comfortable waiting until after class, that is okay, too, but do keep communication open between us.

6. Preserve a positive learning environment

- Student actions that interfere with teaching or learning in the classroom will NOT be tolerated.
- Use class time wisely.

CLASS RULES

1. Turn off cell phones & electronic devices

- Cell Phones should be turned off and invisible during the class period. If I see or hear your phone it will be taken away and given to an administrator. Refusal to turn over the cell phone will be treated as insubordinate behavior.

2. No food or drink, except water

- You may drink bottled water in the classroom. If a spill occurs, please clean it up immediately and inform the teacher.

3. Arrive to class on time & ready to learn

- When the bell rings, you need to be sitting in your assigned seat.
- You should immediately begin on the warm up activity.
- Be “physically” and “mentally” present in the classroom

4. Do your best work & turn it in on time

- Remember that the work that you turn-in is a reflection of your effort on the assignment. Think about the following expectations when you are preparing an assignment that I will review:
 - Write your full name, date, period, and title on all assignments.
 - All work must be neatly done and legible in order to receive credit. If you print, capitalize properly (do not write using all capital letters).

6. ALL SCHOOL RULES OUTLINED IN THE STUDENT HANDBOOK WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.

CLASS CONSEQUENCES

1. Verbal warning

2. Parent Contact

3. Detention

4. Referral to assistant principal

* Serious offenses can, at the teacher’s discretion, result in more severe consequences regardless of previous steps taken.
