

Class Syllabus and Expectations

Mrs. Summerhays | 7th Grade Language Arts | Markham Woods Middle School | 2017-2018

Class Description:

Seventh-grade language arts continues to build on the skills developed during sixth grade and consists of literature, composition, grammar, spelling, and vocabulary. Reading skills are reinforced through literary and informative texts, with an emphasis on poetry. Students continue to build on writing skills through argumentative, informative/expository and narrative writing, including essays, poetry and short response paragraphs. Presentation skills and media literacy will be critiqued and studied through student involvement in speech making.

Language

Proper grammar when speaking and writing is a requirement in this classroom, as well as in all other subjects. We will review many skills you have previously learned in earlier grade levels; therefore, you are accountable for your prior knowledge. This will be done through bellwork activities, grammar lessons imbedded in the curriculum, and journal writing.

Literature / Reading:

Our study of literature will focus on the Florida State Standards by using fictional (short stories), non-fictional, poetry, novels, and Civics text. Each student will be using a *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Literature* textbook (also online) and workbook in class as well as printed text handouts, and provided classroom novels. In addition to reading literature in class, you will also read for pleasure. Therefore, you are expected to **ALWAYS** have an independent reading book with you for pleasure. An eReader device, such as kindle, iPad, or a downloaded book on cell phone, is acceptable providing students use the device only for reading purposes. Our school library is open before/during school and during school lunches.

Writing

Our writing experiences will begin with personal writing, followed by paragraph construction and then move to essay writing. We will learn how to write for different purposes: descriptive, informative/explanatory, narrative, and argumentative. Writing is heavily emphasized in all grade levels, as all grade levels will take the *Florida Writing Assessment*; therefore, we will be engaged in many writing tasks for preparation and practice. Some assignments may be typed; computers will be available in the computer labs, classroom, and media center for your convenience.

Course Materials:

Students will need to bring these materials to class EVERY DAY:

- #2 or Mechanical Pencils
- One 3 subject spiral notebook
- Loose Leaf Notebook Paper
- 1 Folder with Pockets and Prongs
- Highlighter (At Least 3 - Can be any colors)
- Red Pens (For editing and correcting papers)

Class Rules for Success:

All school rules apply in the classroom; however, I put extra emphasis on these:

- ***Be Respectful***
 - I expect all students to respect their classmates, their teacher, and themselves. This means using polite and appropriate language, practicing patience with others, and remaining aware and respectful of the academic environment. Any disrespect will result in an immediate call home and an infraction.
- ***Do not talk or make noise while others are talking***
 - Part of maintaining a respectful attitude in the classroom means not speaking or causing distractions while the teacher or a classmate is talking or presenting. Excessive interruptions will result in a call home and an infraction.
- ***Clean up after yourselves***
 - Please remember to clean up after yourself in order to keep our classroom a clean, safe, and enjoyable place. Not cleaning up will result in loss of privileges in the classroom.
- ***Come to class prepared and ready to work***
 - It is extremely important to come to class every day prepared to learn with all of the class' required materials. Preparedness also means leaving all non-classroom related issues at the door. Middle school can be tough but in the classroom, we must be ready to learn. Of course, I am always available to speak about issues or give advice. If you are ever experiencing any issues, do not hesitate to approach me about them.

Grading Scale:

A = 90 - 100

B = 80 - 89

C = 70 - 79

D = 60 - 69

F = 50-59

All missing assignments or assignments that were not turned in will be put into the grade book as a 49.99% in order to more accurately reflect students' learning. The only exception to this rule is any academic integrity violation. *An academic integrity violation will result in a full zero in the grade book.* Any assignment grade under a 50 will be recorded as a 50 in the grade book. The only exceptions to this are 9 Weeks Tests. All 9 weeks test grades will be recorded as the grade earned in order to accurately reflect learning.

Course Policies:

Homework: Students will be expected to complete assignments outside of class time on a regular basis. All students are expected to read the class material, think critically and write effectively. Students are expected to use complete sentences, proper grammar, and correct spelling in every written performance.

Grades: Student grades will be input into Skyward, which can be accessed separately through ePassport. Students and parents should NOT check eCampus for grades, as not all grades will be input in eCampus.

Interactive Notebooks: Students will be required to bring their notebooks to class **every day**. You will be expected to maintain a neatly organized notebook for the duration of the class. Your notebook will be filled with class notes, graded activities, homework, and vocabulary. You will receive regular guidance on how to construct and maintain your Notebook.

Group Activities: You will be working in groups on a regular basis. Your group will be given cooperative learning activities to complete. You will be expected to be an active member of your group and participation points will be assessed accordingly. You will always be graded as an individual; however, your group may earn points together that will lead to a reward.

Extra Credit: Opportunities for extra credit will be offered from time to time. Extra credit is extra work above and beyond the usual homework, not work used to cover up missing work.

Cell Phone and Technology Usage:

Cellphones and other technology will be used in the classroom to:

- Connect to the Internet for relevant classroom activities.
- Seek information relevant to classroom activities.
- Participate in discussions or quizzes on e-campus

Cellphones and other technology will NOT be used in the classroom to:

- Text/Message for personal and/or social reasons during class
- Call friends or family members during school hours
- Answer calls during school hours
- Complete any tasks that are not academically relevant or school appropriate

Technology misuse in the classroom will result in immediate consequences. I highly encourage you to use technology wisely and responsibly in class.

- ***NOTE: A cellphone IS NOT required for this class***

Absences and Late Work: If a student is absent, it is HIS/HER responsibility to get all late work from the teacher. All absent work is due in the number of days the student was absent plus an extra day. If you were absent or did not complete an assignment or homework that is meant to be turned in, you **MUST** fill out a Missing Work Ticket and turn it into the bin. When turning in make-up work to the bin, make sure to write ABSENT WORK in the upper right corner of your paper. When turning in late work to the bin, make sure to write LATE in the upper right corner.

- **Work WILL NOT be accepted more than 10 days past the due date. Each day that an assignment is late will result in a 5-point reduction in the original grade earned on the assignment.**

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is expected in this class. Cheating will not be tolerated. Consequences may include a reduction in grade on the assignment, repeat assignment, no grade on assignment or others as deemed appropriate. Academic dishonesty will be reported to a school counselor and a parent will be notified.

Heading and Turning In Papers: All papers that are turned in for this class (Whether they are typed or hand-written) **MUST** be headed as follows in the upper right-hand corner of your paper:

Student Name

Mrs. Summerhays

Class Period

Date (mm/dd/yy)

Papers that do not have this heading will receive 3 points off. Papers with no name **WILL NOT** be graded. All assignments must be turned in to the appropriate class period bin unless they are E-Campus Assignments (these will be submitted online).

Contact Information:

If you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact me through the information below. I respond fastest to direct email however; I will try to return E-Campus messages and phone calls as soon as possible.

E-Mail: summerbz@scps.k12.fl.us

Phone: (407) 871-1825