

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7

Liberty Middle School 2020-2021 COURSE SYLLABUS

Ms. Silk



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School Phone: 256-431-0001
Room 231 (Blue Pod)
Planning: B Block

Email is the best way to contact me. Sign up for my email distribution list through the school website. Email me with conference requests. I am available for conferences on Wednesdays from 3:30-5.



Supplies

Always come prepared every day with the following:

- Binder filled with paper
- 6 dividers
- Pencils / pens
- Highlighters
- Sticky notes
- Copies of books
- Composition Notebook

Should you need help with supplies, please let me know.

Course Description

"To help students prepare for college and future careers, the foundation for 7th Grade Language Arts stems from the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards for incoming 7th graders who will eventually progress to 8th Grade Language Arts. The content standards focus on four specific areas: reading, writing, speaking/listening, and language. In 7th Grade, students will have the opportunity to develop specific skills that will progress throughout their middle and high school careers. The reading standards concern students analyzing literature and informational text. Through this analysis, they will determine how literary devices interact, identify central themes, examine author's craft, and support their findings with textual evidence. In writing, students will construct clear and coherent writing in the basic modes – narrative, expository, and persuasive – while being supported through the writing process. In addition, they will be guided through the research process. According to the listening and speaking content standards, learners will engage effectively in collaborative discussions and presentations. Students will adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks along with analyzing the ideas of others. Lastly, within the language core, a command of Standard English conventions, when writing and speaking will be demonstrated, along with the acquisition of general academic and domain specific words." (Madison City Middle School Catalog, p. 4)



Units of Study

- Review of Summer Reading
- Flipped*
- Mississippi Trail, 1955*
- A Christmas Carol: Scrooge & Marley*
- Wednesday Wars*
- Formal Writing
- Poetry Analysis
- Short Stories
- Mechanics, Usage, and Grammar
- Vocabulary/Greek and Latin Roots
- Independent Reading



“Creativity is intelligence having fun.”
– *Albert Einstein*

Make-Up and Late Work

It is the **student's** responsibility to contact me regarding any make-up work. Excused absences will allow for three full days to make up the work. Unexcused absences allow only one day. Any work not turned in during this time frame will be considered late and will turn to a zero in the gradebook until it is made up. You may turn in any assignment late with a 10% penalty each day it is late.

Plagiarism

I will only accept work that is unique to you. Copying or plagiarism of any sort will not be tolerated. Any plagiarized work will face Academic Misconduct policies outlined in the Madison City Schools handbook.

Social Contract

- At the beginning of each term, students will receive a new social contract.
- Students are expected to do two things: be responsible and respectful.
- The consequences for not following the social contract are a warning, loss of social contract points, break detention, and a lunch detention.
- Social Contracts are kept in the front of the ELA binder.
- These are collected at the end of each 9 weeks.

Grading



SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT (60%):

Tests
Projects
Papers
Quizzes
Major Assessments

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT (40%):

Classwork
Homework
Daily Participation
Bellwork

A: 100-90 **B:** 89-80
C: 79-70 **D:** 69-60 **F:** 59-0



Class Expectations

Be Respectful

- ☐ **Respect** - yourself and others, property, authority
- ☐ **Support** - your class and community
- ☐ **Value** - time, opportunity, diversity
- ☐ **Praise** – stay positive

Decide to show up every day!

Be Responsible

- ☐ Come to class on time. This means being in your seat before the bell rings, focused, and ready to learn.
- ☐ Come to class with all necessary supplies.

Be Positive

- ☐ Be responsible for your learning; work hard and do your very best work.
- ☐ Have a positive mindset!

Independent Reading

Students will complete one independent reading project option per term. Due dates will be posted after Labor Day.

Testing Days

ELA classes test on Tuesdays and Thursdays to ensure that students are not testing in multiple classes on the same day.

Daily Assignments

Vocabulary: Students will have a 10 terms every other week. These will be assigned on Tuesdays and assessed the following Tuesday. Practice activities will occur before the assessment.

Bell Work: Bell work may be graded on the spot or collected at the end of the week. All notes and practice should be kept in order in your notebook.

Article of the Month: Students will read and annotate a nonfiction article once a month. These will be assigned on Thursdays and due the following Thursday.

No-Name Papers

Unidentified papers will automatically receive half credit, if claimed. Unclaimed papers will receive a zero in the gradebook until claimed.

Passes

Students are expected to be in class on time. If you think you will be late to class, make sure you have a pass from your teacher.

Students must have a pass to leave the room. If you're returning from the office, nurse, or another teacher, your return pass must be signed as well.

Class Dismissal

Students should expect bell to bell instruction. Prior to class dismissal, students are expected to clean up and organize their areas. Any borrowed materials must be returned. Desks must be properly arranged. Any trash/debris will be disposed of properly before leaving the classroom.

Attendance for Virtual Learning

Attendance via Schoology will be taken each day. Log in every day, participate in live sessions, join help sessions, and email me with any questions or with any technical difficulties.

Digital Netiquette

For all virtual/digital assignments, students are expected to be respectful, courteous, engaged, and on task. When logging on to a live session or small group, please mute your microphone and wait for further instruction. Use appropriate language at all times. Give your best effort, take your time, and ask for help as soon as you need it. I am here to help you through all digital assignments!

Virtual Learning Assignments

Virtual Learning Assignments are graded and will be logged in Schoology and iNow. Please take your time and give your best effort on all assignments.

Novel Studies

We will read several novels this year. It is NOT required that you purchase these, but it is suggested. Please do not read these books ahead of time if you purchase! I will let you know in advance when we will be starting these novels. I am providing the links for ordering options, but you may also borrow these from someone else, check out from the library, purchase as an e-book, order elsewhere, etc. Remember, this is not required but is encouraged for students to have access to their own copy for notes and re-reading.

<i>Flipped</i> by Wendelin Van Draanen	Amazon Flipped Link Barnes and Noble Flipped Link
<i>The Wednesday Wars</i> by Gary Schmidt	Amazon Wednesday Wars Link Barnes and Noble Wednesday Wars Link
<i>Mississippi Trial: 1955</i> by Chris Crowe	Amazon MS Trial Link Barnes and Noble Link MS Trial

"It is our choices... that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities." ~Albus Dumbledore

Technology Policy

Cell phones are not to be used in class for any reason unless specified by the teacher for the lesson. BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) days will be announced ahead of time. Otherwise, students will use school laptops or labs for activities or research. School technology should be treated with care and use can be revoked from misuse at any time. Students will given a Cell Phone Pocket Number and all cell phones will be placed in the appropriate pocket before the start of class unless otherwise instructed.

- I. Verbal Warning / Student Conference
- II. Loss of Social Contract Points
- III. Break detention and call home
- IV. Detention and/or formal parent conference
- V. Office referral

Behavior Policy/Social Contract

- I. Verbal Warning / Student Conference
- II. Loss of Social Contract Points
- III. Break detention and call home
- IV. Detention and/or formal parent conference
- V. Office referral

Make-Up Work/Extra Help (Traditional Setting)

Opportunities to complete make-up work and/or provide tutoring before school, beginning at 7:30 a.m. Please email at least 24 hours in advance.

Agreement

I agree to adhere to the policies outlined in this ELA 7 syllabus. I understand all classroom policies and procedures are subject to change at any time, with or without written notice.

Students:

Please complete the Syllabus Assignment on August 12, 2020 acknowledging that you have read and understand the course syllabus.

Parents:

Please check the box on the Distribution List Google Form acknowledging that you have read and understand the course syllabus.

iNOW

- Important Codes:
- ABS= Absent
- EX= Exempt
- NTN= Not Turned In
- ***Use the Full Site to see these codes and other information.***
- Check iNOW frequently for your grades and progress in this course.
- Assignments will be posted weekly in Schoology. Grades will be posted in iNOW. If you need assistance using these platforms, please let me know.

Schoology

Conferences

- We will use Schoology Conferences for Live Instruction & small groups. It only works through a browser--not the app.