



Liberty Middle School

281 Dock Murphy Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

7th Grade English Language Arts - Honors Mrs. McConnell

Teacher Contact Information	Email: RMcConnell@Madisoncity.k12.al.us Classroom Phone: 256-430-0001 ext. 83235
Classroom Digital Platforms	Webpage Link: https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/2683 Schoology Link: https://madisoncity.schoology.com/
Textbook Information	McGrawhill <i>StudySync Reading and Writing Companion</i> - This text will be used as a supplemental resource.
Course Description	<p>“7th Grade Honors Language Arts is an accelerated learning environment, which requires students to work more independently in class and at home. Students are required to read at and above grade-level texts independently and at an accelerated pace. Along with this, grammar and writing are also learned and practiced at and above grade level to prepare students for 8th grade Honors Language Arts. Standards for this class are based on the 7th Grade Language Arts Alabama College and Career Ready Standards. These standards are focused on reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language. The reading standards will require students to read and analyze a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts to determine how literary devices interact, identify central themes, examine the author’s craft, and support these findings with textual evidence. Students will be guided through the research and writing process to produce writing in the narrative, expository, and persuasive modes along with guiding and implementing the Madison City writing curriculum, Claim-Data-Commentary. In addition, students will engage effectively in a variety of collaborative discussions and adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks along with building on and responding to the ideas of others. Outside reading and summer reading are required” (Madison City Schools MS Course Catalog, p. 7).</p>
Course Objectives	<p>Students will develop and strengthen critical thinking skills by reading, comprehending, and engaging with both literary and informational texts. Students will make text-to-text, text-to-world, and text-to-self connections. Students will be able to identify, define, and duplicate examples of figurative language found in texts. They will demonstrate their understanding of the text through various formative and summative assessments. Students will display the convergence of their independent thoughts and textual examples in the writing of paragraphs and essays, as well as develop clear and concise writing skills through the execution of writing assignments and the application of proofreading and editing skills. Students will also improve their writing through the increased understanding and application of grammar, mechanics, and vocabulary skills. Students will be able to respectfully engage critically and constructively in a dialogue of ideas through class discussion, small group assignments, and project-based learning. Students will develop and display clear written and verbal communication skills.</p>
Course Outline	<p>Term 1/First 9 Weeks: Summer Reading Review (<i>Flipped</i> novel); <i>I am Malala Young Reader’s Edition</i>; Narrative writing; Parts of speech review; Punctuation review; vocabulary skills Term 2/Second 9 Weeks: Drama; Narrative Poetry; Explanatory Writing; Intro to research; <i>A Christmas Carol</i>; phrases/clauses; vocabulary skills Term 3/Third 9 Weeks: Nonfiction/Informational Texts; Informational Writing; Poetry; Sentence Types; S-V Agreement; ACAP review; vocabulary skills Term 4/Fourth 9 Weeks: Research; Literature Circles: Dystopian Novels; ACAP review; dangling/misplaced modifiers; vocabulary skills <i>*This is subject to change.</i></p>

Classroom Expectations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be seated and ready for class when the bell rings. Students tardy to class will receive a detention per LMS policy. 2. Come prepared for class. Bring all necessary supplies, including homework. 3. Respect your teacher, your classmates, and yourself. 4. Listen and follow directions. 5. If it's not yours, don't touch it. Keep your hands and feet to yourself. If you break something of mine, be prepared to replace it. This also applies to school technology. 6. Follow all school rules. 7. The teacher dismisses the class, not the bell.
Progressive Discipline <i>(LMS Policy)</i>	<p>Step 1: Verbal warning Step 2: Student/teacher conference Step 3: Parent contact/conference Step 4: Detention and a parent contact Step 5: Office referral</p>
Grading Policy <i>(MCS Policy)</i>	<p>60% = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects) 40% = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation)</p> <p>*ELA Testing days are Tuesdays and Thursdays. All major tests will be given on these days and will be announced at least a week in advance. No extra credit work will be given due to missing work, late work, etc.</p>
Late Work Policy	<p>Late work is accepted with a penalty of 10% off every week it is late. After three weeks, students can only score up to a 65%. I will not accept late work after the nine-week term is over. Please communicate with me in advance if there is an extenuating circumstance. I am here to help you and work with you!</p>
Make-up Work/ Test Policy	<p>-Students with excused absences will be allowed to make up all work within three days of returning to school. It is the student's responsibility to ask for make-up work. Students can get with a classmate or ask the teacher for help. Work that is not made up will become a zero (including quizzes/tests). Many times, missed quizzes and tests can be made up during school.</p> <p>-Students who score below a 65% on a test are eligible for a re-take. However, students may not score higher than an 85% on their second test. (Retakes exclude ALL projects. Ample time will be given for project conclusion.)</p>
Technology	<p>Neither the teacher, nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops. Laptops and other electronic devices will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher. <u>Please bring your school-issued Chromebook and charger to school every day.</u></p> <p>**Students are not allowed to text message or make phone calls during instructional time. No social media is allowed during class time. Please remember to respect others and do not take and post photos or videos of others during class.</p>
Materials & Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 ½' binder (shared with Math) • Loose leaf paper • Pencil pouch • Scissors • Colored Pencils/Markers • Highlighters • Pencils/pens • Glue sticks • Tab dividers (4 for ELA) <p><u>Teacher Wish List:</u> these items are <u>NOT</u> required but would be greatly appreciated. Tissues, paper towels, whiteboard cleaner, sharpies, chart paper markers, batteries- AAA, highlighters, paper, pencils, markers, colored pencils, post-it notes, index cards, dry erase markers</p>

	<p>Required Novels: It is required that all honors students have their own copies of novels in Language Arts. I am providing the links for ordering options, but you may also borrow these from another resource. Students will be given ample reminders about having novels on time. Please do not read these novels ahead of time, with the exception of the summer reading novel.</p> <p>Summer Reading Novel: <i>Flipped</i> by Wendlin van Draanen (All students should complete reading this novel by August 8.) Amazon Link</p> <p><i>I am Malala (Young Readers Edition)</i> by Malala Yousafezi (Need by August 23) Amazon Link <i>A Christmas Carol</i> by Charles Dickens (Need by Thanksgiving break) Amazon Link <i>The Crossover</i> by Kwame Alexander (Need by February) Amazon Link</p> <p>Lit Circle Options (students will choose one of the following books- not all three) <i>-Uglies</i> by Scott Westerfeld Amazon Link <i>-Matched</i> by Allie Condie Amazon Link <i>-The Selection</i> by Kiera Cass Amazon Link <i>-Ender's Game</i> by Orson Scott Card Amazon Link</p>
<p>Homework</p>	<p>Honors students will be required to read assigned novels outside of the classroom in preparation for in-class work, quizzes, and writing assignments. Homework is rarely assigned and will be an extension of work in the classroom to better assist students in meeting classroom objectives. Students are encouraged to study for tests/quizzes as homework and read outside novels as well.</p>

***This syllabus is subject to change, without notice, at teacher discretion.
Please sign the 2023-2024 Parent & Student Syllabus Acknowledgement Sheet and turn it in to your teacher.***

Cut below this line and return by August 11

2023-2024 Parent & Student Syllabus Acknowledgement Sheet

Complete the form below to indicate your understanding and agreement with the ELA 7 Course Syllabus. This syllabus is subject to change, without notice, at the teacher's discretion. Return this page to your ELA teacher no later than August 10th.

<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)	<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> Parent/Guardian Signature & Date
<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> Student Name (Printed)	<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> Student Signature & Date