



# Liberty Middle School

281 Dock Murphy Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

## 7th Grade English Language Arts Mrs. Morris (Previously Hagadorn)

<b>Teacher Contact Information</b>	<b>Email:</b> ahmorris@madisoncity.k12.al.us <b>Classroom Phone:</b> 256-430-0001 ext.
<b>Classroom Digital Platforms</b>	<b>Webpage Link:</b> <a href="https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/2562">https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/2562</a> <b>Schoology Link:</b> <a href="https://madisoncity.schoology.com/">https://madisoncity.schoology.com/</a>
<b>Textbook Information</b>	McGrawhill <i>StudySync Reading and Writing Companion</i> - This text will be used as a supplemental resource.
<b>Course Description</b>	To prepare students for college and future careers, the 7th Grade Language Arts curriculum stems directly from the 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.
<b>Course Objectives</b>	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.
<b>Course Outline</b>	<b>Term 1/First 9 Weeks:</b> Summer Reading Review ( <i>Flipped</i> novel); Short story Unit; <i>A Long Walk to Water</i> Novel Study; Narrative writing; Parts of speech review; Punctuation review; vocabulary skills <b>Term 2/Second 9 Weeks:</b> Drama; Narrative Poetry; Persuasive Writing; Intro to research; <i>A Christmas Carol</i> Drama; phrases/clauses; vocabulary skills <b>Term 3/Third 9 Weeks:</b> Nonfiction/Informational Texts; Argumentative Writing; Sentence Types; S-V Agreement; <i>The Crossover</i> unit; vocabulary skills <b>Term 4/Fourth 9 Weeks:</b> Poetry; ACAP review; dangling/misplaced modifiers; vocabulary skills; New Novel (TBA) <i>*This is subject to change.</i>
<b>Classroom Expectations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be on time, be prepared, be responsible for yourself.</li> <li>2. Respect yourself, respect others, and respect the classroom.</li> <li>3. Read the board and begin working when you enter the classroom.</li> <li>4. Stay in one spot during instruction.</li> <li>5. Participate and collaborate.</li> <li>6. Leave the room better than before.</li> </ol>

<p><b>Progressive Discipline</b> (LMS Policy)</p>	<p><b>Step 1:</b> Verbal warning  <b>Step 2:</b> Student/teacher conference  <b>Step 3:</b> Parent contact/conference  <b>Step 4:</b> Detention and a parent contact  <b>Step 5:</b> Office referral</p>
<p><b>Grading Policy</b> (MCS Policy)</p>	<p><b>60%</b> = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects)  <b>40%</b> = 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>
<p><b>Late Work Policy</b></p>	<p>Late work is accepted with a penalty of 10% of 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>
<p><b>Make-up Work/Test Policy</b></p>	<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>
<p><b>Technology</b></p>	<p>Please bring your school-assigned laptop with you to class daily. Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers. 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.</p>
<p><b>Materials &amp; Supplies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 ½' binder (shared with Math)</li> <li>• Loose leaf paper</li> <li>• Pencil pouch</li> <li>• Scissors</li> <li>• Colored Pencils/Markers</li> <li>• Highlighters</li> <li>• Pencils/pens</li> <li>• Glue sticks</li> <li>• Tab dividers (4 for ELA)</li> </ul> <p><b>Teacher Wish List:</b> these items are <b>NOT</b> 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>We will read several novels this year. It is NOT required that you purchase these, but it is suggested. Links are provided for a purchase option. <b>Please do not read these novels ahead of time, with the exception of the summer reading novel.</b></p> <p><i>Flipped</i> by Wendelin van Draanen (Summer Reading- all students should be ready to discuss the text on August 8th)  <i>A Long Walk to Water</i> by Linda Sue Park: <a href="#">Amazon Link</a>  <i>The Crossover</i> by Kwame Alexander <a href="#">Amazon Link</a>  Alabama Moon by Watt Key</p>
<p><b>Homework</b></p>	<p>During novel studies, students may be asked to read outside of class. Excluding novel studies, homework is rarely assigned. It is typically either an extension of the day's lesson and/or work that had not been completed in class.</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.*

### **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.**

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<b>Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)</b>	<b>Parent/Guardian Signature &amp; Date</b>
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<b>Student Name (Printed)</b>	<b>Student Signature &amp; Date</b>