

Seventh Grade Language Arts Syllabus 2020-2021

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Office Hours/Parent Meetings by Appointment

Course Description:

Students will progress toward mastery of the Common Core English Language Arts Standards by reading, writing, speaking, and thinking critically about grade-level narrative and expository texts. Students will use 21st century learning tools to create, collaborate, think critically, and communicate. By the end of the year, students will understand that reading and thinking critically about a variety of texts stimulates ideas that move us beyond our immediate world and encourage our self-expression.

Textbook:

McDougal Littell's The Language of Literature

Year Overview (Subject to Change):

Unit One: Students will read and analyze poetry to understand how writers use figurative and sensory language and other literary devices. Through these analyses, students will create their own poetry to explore and reflect on their identities.

Unit Two: Students will analyze characters and write justification paragraphs using textual evidence. Through the study of these narrative texts, students will gain a deeper understanding of themselves and their identities.

Unit Three: Students will analyze and write informational text and interact with the texts by annotating.

Unit Four: Students will read and analyze fictional texts to determine themes and analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters. Students will cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

Unit Five: Students will use logical evidence to support claims which will provide an opportunity to hear and value other people's perspectives.

Unit Six: Students will read and analyze the novel *The Giver* by Lois Lowry and cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the novel says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

Standards-Based Grading Policy:

Students' grades will reflect their mastery of the Common Core Standards. Progress reports will be sent home to parents/guardians mid-quarter, but your child's scores may be accessed any time on the Illuminate Parent Portal.

Required Materials (provided by NMCMS):

- A 2-3 inch binder filled with college-ruled binder paper and index dividers
- Pens (at least 2). Pens must be blue, dark purple, or black.
- Pencils
- Planner
- Highlighters (at least three different colors)
- Individual pencil sharpeners
- White copy paper
- One pack of 100 3x5 lined index cards
- Colored pencils or markers
- Dry erase markers (blue or black only)

Digital Citizenship for Online Learners:

Be a Digital Citizen. Digital citizenship is a person who uses technology in a responsible way.

Check your school email one or more times per day.

Log in to ALL Google Classrooms daily.

Email your teacher if you need anything and respond to emails or phone calls within 24 hours.

Attend all Zoom classes.

Attend office hours if you need help or if you just need to chat.

Do prerequisite learning (independent work) BEFORE class, and turn in assigned work when it is due.

... and don't forget to follow a schedule everyday! Eat regularly, get exercise, and take breaks from electronics.

Zoom/Google Meets Expectations for Online Learners:

Take care of your personal business before class (use the restroom, eat, set up your work space prior to class).

Join class from a distraction-free zone to the best of your ability (no pets, siblings, etc.).

Make sure your dress and background are appropriate.

Be on time. Log on a few minutes early.

Use your first and last name as your Zoom screen name.

Keep yourself on mute until it is time for you to speak.

Use the chat or raise your hand if you have a question.

Keep your video on as much as possible.

Respond when the teacher asks a question.

Be engaged in the lesson at all times.

Do not take pictures of the video meeting.

Zoom Consequences:

1st Offense - Verbal Warning

2nd Offense - Feature Restriction (teacher controls access to mic, video, or chat)

3rd Offense - Removal from Zoom class followed by teacher, student, parent conference.

Continued offenses will result in referral to administration.

Expectations for Offline Learners

Follow a schedule everyday. Eat regularly, get exercise, and take breaks.

Text, call, or email your teacher if you need anything!

Respond to phone calls within 24 hours.

Write down questions to discuss with your teacher later.

Absences & Contact:

Students must attend all Zoom classes and advisory class. If a student isn't in contact three days in a row, then your teacher will contact administration.

Parent Conferences/Contact:

In order to have adequate time to discuss a student's progress and to honor parents' valuable time, I will be available by appointment only. If possible, please communicate with me via email at kyle_van_sant@nmcusd.org.

Absences:

In the event of an absence, the student must immediately turn in homework. Students are responsible for making up tests or exams the same day they return from an absence. In addition, the student is responsible for noting work missed due to the absence and asking another student for help in finding work that needs to be made up due to the absences. Students should complete and turn in their assignments as soon as possible after an absence.