

## **Seventh Grade English Language Arts**

**2021-2022**

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### **Course Objectives**

This year students will be building upon the skills they learned in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We will follow the Expeditionary Learning curriculum, which is aligned to the Common Core Learning Standards. This curriculum is recommended by the NYCDOE and will help us improve our reading comprehension, literary analysis, and argumentative writing. We will improve these skills by responding to and critically analyzing the variety of texts we read.

### **Course Expectations**

- Students will come to class every day, on time, and prepared with required course materials each day and any assignments that are due.
- Students will take creative risks and challenge themselves as readers and writers.
- Students will make their learning their number one priority by respecting class time and putting forth their best effort.
- Students are expected to share their ideas, ask questions, and support their classmates.

### **What to bring to class**

- Class book(s)
- Planner
- Pencil or pen (**blue** or **black** ink only! As much as we love green and pink, any other color that is used to complete a written assignment will not be formally graded and asked to be redone in pencil, **blue** or **black**.)

### **Behavior expectations**

As seventh graders, it is imperative that you work your hardest each day as we begin preparing for high school. Do things that will not prevent us from teaching, nor you or others from learning. Always respect yourself, others, and your school. Be responsible with assignments, work hard, and listen carefully.

\*Students are expected to be kind, respectful and to work cooperatively in class.\*

### **Late Assignments/Missed Work/Re-doing assignments**

Students may turn in late assignments throughout a unit, but once the unit ends, late work will no longer be accepted. For example, missing work for Unit 3 may be turned in throughout Unit 3, but may not be turned in once Unit 4 has started.

Students may redo assignments that earn below a 75 in order to improve their grade. They must communicate with their teachers if they intend to redo an assignment. Redos must occur within two weeks of a grade being posted in Skedula. For example, if a student receives a grade on Friday, October 2, they have until Friday, October 16th to submit a redo. After the two-week window, the original grade stands.

### **Cheating/Plagiarism**

Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic grade of zero. This includes copying homework, classwork, test answers, talking during a test or quiz, allowing someone to copy your work, and trying to pass off someone else's work as your own. There will also be a disciplinary meeting.

### **Group Work (we do)**

During many lessons there will be opportunities to work in pairs or in a group. We ask that everyone respect one another when working together. Please do not express disappointment or disapproval of other students within the class. In addition, all students are expected to contribute to the activity with no one person taking charge of the entire group, and no students relying on other students to do all the work.

### **Grading Categories and Weights**

**Assessment (40%)** 2-3 assessments per module

- Published piece(s)
- Midterm
- Final exam

**Classwork assignments (50%)** 2-3 scores per week

- Classwork assignments, exit tickets, do nows, reading reflections

**REACH (10%)** 2-3 per week

- focus on school REACH values

### **Restroom Use**

It is crucial that all students are in class during instructional time. We ask that you please wait until all instructions have been given before leaving the room to use the bathroom, which means after the mini-lesson, unless it is an emergency. When leaving the room to use the

bathroom, please raise your hand using two fingers silently to ask permission and make sure to sign out using the laptop. Only one person should leave the classroom at a time.

### **Rewards**

We can't wait to celebrate your success in ELA class! We will be tracking the amount of 5's each seventh grade class won and at the end of the trimester the class who had the most 5's will have a celebration!

### **Consequences**

Students are expected to be kind, respectful and to work cooperatively in class. If any rules are broken, however, there is a ladder of consequences that will be followed:

**First time a rule is broken:** Verbal warning

**Second Offense:** Behavior is documented on the R.E.A.C.H. Log and detention

**Third Offense:** Phone call with parent and behavior alert and/or removal from class

**Note:** The teacher may decide to skip the series of consequences for serious rule infractions. The student may be sent directly to the counselor or to the administration.

### **Entering Class**

All students must wait outside of the ELA classroom and may not enter until they have been granted verbal permission by the teacher, *even if the door is open*. ELA class starts on-time and we must make the most of our time to get the most out of the lesson. When you have permission, enter the classroom silently and take your assigned seat. Students will follow the same routine at the beginning of every class:

1. Take out your binder, text, pen/pencil, and planner.
2. Put your previous night's homework in the center of the table.
3. Copy down that night's homework (check the whiteboard!).
4. Circle key words from the learning target and complete the Activate Your Brain!

### **Exiting Class**

At the end of each class, we will ask the entire class to reflect on what they believe they should earn as a REACH score. Silently you will raise your hands to reveal what you believe should be the score. We will then call on two students to explain their reasoning for that particular score. Students should not begin packing up and lining up until told to do so. Once instructed, students may begin to pack up materials, but must remain in their seats. A teacher will give clear instructions to students or tables that may line up. Once all students are lined up, you will be dismissed to your next class.

## Homework

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Parents/Guardians:**

I have read the Syllabus for Seventh Grade English Language Arts Class, and I understand the course's grading policy, homework policy, required binder organization, and items that my child must bring in daily to be prepared.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_