

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS & READING

"In truly good writing, no matter how many times you read it, you do not know how it is done. That is because there is a mystery in all great writing and that mystery does not dissect out. It continues and it is always valid. Each time you re-read, you see or learn something new."

— Ernest Hemingway

## AS YOUR TEACHER...

1. I will create a safe environment for learning.
2. I will value your needs.
3. I will prepare valuable lessons that have a "real world" approach.
4. I will strive for fairness and consistency.

## GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESS

1. Be responsible.
2. Always try.
3. Do your best.
4. Cooperate with others.
5. Treat everyone with respect, including yourself.

## CLASS RULES

1. Work during all work times.
2. Use school-appropriate language.
3. Come to class on time and prepared.
4. Follow adult directions the first time given.
5. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
6. No gum, food, or drinks allowed in the classroom.

## Course Description

Welcome to 7th English Language Arts & Reading! Our focus this school year will be learning and developing our skills as critical thinkers, readers, writers, speakers, and listeners. The development and mastery of these important literary skills not only is important to achieving success in the ELAR classroom, but it is also a critical component of achieving success in other school subjects, building strong relationships with others, and attaining a flourishing career as an adult. Basically, the quality of life you experience now through adulthood will depend a lot on how well you read, write, and communicate with others.



## What do I get if I follow class rules?

Your appropriate behavior in class guarantees everyone will experience an environment conducive to learning. Some possible rewards for continuous appropriate behavior are intrinsic value (satisfaction of learning), improved skills, verbal praise, positive note to parents, and special class activities / privileges.

## What are the consequences if I don't follow class rules?

1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Verbal warning

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Demerit

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Parent contact and demerit

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Offense: Lunch or afterschool detention and demerit

**\*\* Additional offenses will result in an Office Referral \*\***

## Where do I go to find agendas and assignments?

**Canvas** is where many class assignments, discussions, and projects will be posted and turned in.

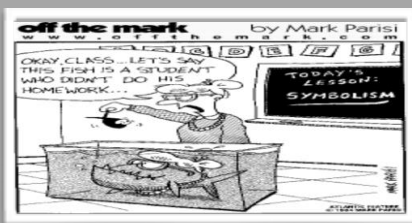
**\*\* Parents, you may create a "parent account" to keep up with your child's work. \*\***

## What happens if I turn in an assignment late?

Work not completed and turned in **by the assigned date** is considered late. If a student is absent on the date work is due, the assignment is due the first day the student returns to school. Late work is accepted **up to 3 days after** the original due date. **Late points will be deducted** (20 points total) for assignments turned in after the due date.

## GRADE SCALE

A+ = 100%	A = 94% - 99%
A- = 90% - 93%	B+ = 87% - 89%
B = 84% - 86%	B- = 80% - 83%
C+ = 77% - 79%	C = 74% - 76%
C- = 70% - 73%	D = 64% - 69%
F = 0% - 63%	



## GRADE BREAKDOWN

### Major Grades = 40%

(Tests/Quizzes will count as Major Grades and may include the following: vocabulary, comprehension, grammar, essays, etc.)

### Daily Grades = 60%

(All other assignments will count as Daily Grades and may include the following: discussions, warm-ups, journal checks, participation, etc.)

### CBAs & Benchmarks = 40%

(Any district-wide assessment will count as a Major Grade)



## SUPPLIES

### Required:

- 1 - 3 Subject Spiral Notebook
- 1 - Folder w/ brads & pockets (Blue)
- Multiple pencils
- Pens (blue, black, red)
- Multiple erasers
- One pair of earbuds or headphones

### Highly Encouraged:

- One handheld pencil sharpener
- One portable mouse for Chromebooks

## How will I check my grade in class?

Grades for the previous week will be updated in **Skyward** by the following Tuesday. Parents and students are also strongly encouraged to check Skyward on a weekly basis to view the most current grades for EVERY class. Although most assignments will be completed in Canvas, Skyward is used district-wide for grading purposes.

## What do I do if I am absent?

Always check the class Canvas page for agendas, handouts, and assignment due dates. A student has however many days they were absent plus an additional day to turn in any work **assigned** on a day they were absent. If a quiz was administered on a day a student was absent, the quiz must be made up by appointment with the teacher. If previously assigned work was due on the day of the absence, the work is due on the day the student returns, otherwise it is considered late, and points will be deducted.

## Do I have to read outside of class?

All students will be expected to read independently daily. Students must bring a reading book to school, so they are prepared for independent reading during class time. It is highly suggested for everyone to have a Rosenberg Library Card.

**\*\* Book projects may be due throughout the year. \*\***

## What types of writing will I do this year?

In this class, we will follow the outline of a "Writer's Workshop", which entails a short mini-lesson and time for students to write. We will go through the whole writing process to produce narratives, creative writing pieces, poetry, and informational & argumentative essays. Students will be challenged to improve and refine their written communication skills. Special emphasis will be placed on pre-writing and editing strategies to produce an error-free final product. Vocabulary development and the mastery of mechanics & grammar are highly stressed.

## What are the required readings this year?

This class will be based on the balanced literacy approach, which will include self-selected independent books and books read in groups, covering various units. We will read classics, poetry, short stories, and informational/persuasive texts throughout the year. Some of these units include topics, such as: historical events, weather-related tragedies, revolutions & dystopian societies, dramas, science, current events, and social justice.

## What else do I need to know?

Most of our work will be completed in class; however, anything and everything we do in class has the potential to become homework. There may be a handful of assignments throughout the year assigned as actual homework.

Your success is of utmost importance to me. I will be conferencing with you during class to ensure you understand concepts we are covering. Additional tutoring outside of the school day is available upon request.