

7th Grade English Language Arts

Mr. Simpson: Room 14

Contact Me

✉ ksimpson@paparts.org

✍ Messages in student's agenda

✍ Appointment by request

📅 Google Classroom

👉 *The most efficient way to reach me is through email.*

Phone: 505-830-3128

Materials

1 highlighter*

1 notebook*

#2 pencils for year*

1 2-pocket folder w/ prongs

Scissors (optional)

Kleenex and Clorox wipes always appreciated but not required

** 1 of these must be a college rule composition notebook with 100 sheets/200 pages.*

**Students are required to bring colored pencils, pencils, highlighter to class everyday. A pencil bag is suggested.*

**If you are not able to bring materials needed please see me for other arrangements.*

Late Work and Other Policies

Late Work: Projects may be submitted late for a penalty of one letter grade per day late. **No other homework will be accepted late.**

Extra Credit: There is none.

Test/Quiz Retake: Students will have the opportunity to correct any test/quiz to recoup points up to a "c".

Grade Weights and Descriptions

Grades:

A = 90%-100% B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79% D = 60%-69%

F = Below 60

Grade Weights

- **Process (35% of grade):** Assignments in this category are designed to measure growth in ELA skills. These items do not show mastery, rather, they show a consistent push toward growth. Examples of this include: daily writing, self evaluation, quarterly reader's workshop grades (which measure progress in independent reading), and frequent literary analysis pieces like article annotations and responses.
- **Product (45% of grade):** These require students to apply class concepts and evaluate their current understanding of the learning we are doing. Included in this are projects, tests, and papers.
- **Participation (20 % of grade):** Assignments in this category assess students for being present and attentive in class. Some examples are attendance, and participation. Homework also falls under this category.

Grades are available on PowerSchool. Please check this regularly and alert me of any issues with particular assignments. If you do not have a login please see the registrar.

Absentee Policy

Students who are absent from class are responsible for taking initiative to obtain their own makeup work. Students can check the "While You Were Out" binder for missing assignments. In addition, students can check with peers or teacher for any confusion, do not expect teacher to supply you with makeup work. Students have 1 day for each day absent to complete makeup work, any work remaining incomplete after this period will receive a zero.

Tardy: Students are expected to be in their seats and working on daily writing by the time the second bell rings. Failure to do so will result in a marking of tardy, which causes a loss of half of the day's attendance points.

E-submission policy: Assignments assigned prior to a student's absence will be due the day they return. Feel free to submit assignments via email/Google Docs. Further, internet and printer issues are not an excuse for missing deadlines, handwriting an assignment is always possible.

Note: Any assignments collected while absent will be marked as a zero until submitted.

Academic Honesty

It is expected that students will use genuine, sincere, and fair means for the accomplishment of the tests, tasks, or projects from which evaluations of progress shall be determined. Students found plagiarizing, copying or cheating in any way will receive automatic zeros and have phone calls made to their parents. In addition, repeated offenses will result in a failing grade for the nine weeks or semester depending on the nature of the incident.

Rules

Students are expected to follow these basic rules.

1. Be prepared for class everyday.
2. Follow directions the first time.
3. Make informed choices.
4. Take personal responsibility.
5. Respect yourself, the classroom, and others.

Other Expectations

Reading:

Students will have homework every night. Students are expected to read from independent or class assigned novels every night for a minimum of 25 minutes. This reading will be assessed monthly.

Bathroom:

Students are expected to use the rest room before school, at lunch, and during passing period. I understand there are emergencies, so each student will receive 3 bathroom passes per quarter.

Other Ways to Stay Connected

Remind: This is an app to receive class announcements like homework the codes for this class is *papaela7*

Google classroom: The class will be using Google Classroom this semester. Students will be able to take quizzes and submit written work via this platform. In addition, students (and/or parents) can receive class announcements and see a course calendar. Ask your student how to access this.

Course Outlook

This classroom works in a workshop model. That is a method of student-centered teaching that immerses students in a complex and in-depth study of reading and writing with daily direct instruction as well as frequent 1:1 and/or small group instruction and intervention to differentiate for learners. This model focuses on student choice (in content of writing or reading) and frequent low stakes or no stakes practice. Below are two models of what a typical classroom day might look like.

A typical day with writing as the focus

54 minute class period:

- *6 minutes board read attendance taken and book talk
- *8 minutes read or write (small group 1:1 conferencing)
- *2 minutes sharing
- *15 minutes teacher directed notes/ text study
- *20 minutes practice/notebook work/drafting (small group 1:1 conferencing)
- *3 minutes clean up


A typical day with reading as the focus

54 minute class period

- *6 minutes board read attendance taken and book talk
- *8 minutes read or write (small group 1:1 conferencing)
- * 2 minutes sharing
- *5-10 minutes teacher reading strategy
- *30 minutes Reading (1:1 conferencing)
- * 3 minutes clean up

Some Areas of Study*

*Please fill out (front and back) of this page and return **only** this with your student. The rest of the syllabus should be kept as reference. Have your student affix it to the center portion of their class folder.*

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| Writing Genres Free verse poetry Literary analysis Memoir Flash Fiction Editorial Writing Research Paper Public Service Announcement | Class Novel Study Locomotion – Jacqueline Woodson The Giver – Lois Lowry Freak the Mighty- Rodman Philbrick American Born Chinese- Gene Luen Yang Literature Circle- Various Authors At least 5 independent reading novels (can be selected from class library, local library, or students' home). | Depth of Study Blooms Taxonomy - Revised  |
| Some Common Assignments Writer's Notebook: Students will journal or free write daily. This is graded based upon a page count weekly. For 7 th grade the expectation is 4 pages of writing Nightly Reading: Reading habits are incredibly important, the expectation for this has been described above Novel Response: Students are expected to respond to one independent novel per quarter Analysis Assignments: These assignments are quarterly and designed to develop analysis of texts Vocabulary: This is a bi-weekly assignment. Students collect their own list of words and perform specific activities with them to show their understanding of the word *subject to change depending on student interest and need | | 7 th grade ELA focuses on analysis. The curriculum in this class spirals to allow students multiple occasions to learn and practice new and old material in an increasingly complex manner. For more information please visit http://shorturl.at/lmW36 |

A Favor...

We do not get to speak enough. Please use this page to help get us started on the right foot in terms of communication. Do you have any concerns or goals for your student this year? If your student has returned from last year are there questions or noticings from their last school year? If you are the guardian of a new student tell me about your child's experience in sixth grade. What should I be aware of? Look out for?

Signature Page

I have read and understand the rules and expectations for English 7. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to contact my teacher if I have any questions or concerns. I know that this syllabus, assignments, calendars, and resources are available to me on the class website and Google Classroom at any time. I know that assignments can be emailed to the teacher at any time and that printer/computer/flash drive issues are not an excuse for late assignments.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

