



A.D. HENDERSON SCHOOL/FAU HIGH SCHOOL

Seventh Grade Language Arts Syllabus

2022-2023

Ms. Coniff

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Course Description:

Our language arts curriculum is designed in compliance with *Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards for English Language Arts* to help improve students' communication skills through deep reading, impactful writing, dynamic speaking, and thoughtful listening. Skills also addressed in this course include: vocabulary development, presentation strategies, research techniques, and grammar usage. Technology will be utilized as a tool to research, publish, organize, and communicate information. There will be a variety of reading and writing assignments required for this class. To succeed in this class, every student must be willing to put forth maximum effort. A variety of assessments will be given such as: tests, essays, reports, and projects. There will be partner work, group activities, and independent requirements. Throughout this course, emphasis will be put on student independence. Students must advocate for themselves, stay organized, and be responsible and punctual. Completing assignments in a timely manner is required for all 7th graders.

Course Objectives:

One of the objectives of this course is to facilitate critical thinking and debate around topics, theories, and concepts where disagreement is not only anticipated, but encouraged. The ability to think critically, express your ideas clearly, and respond to the instructor and other students civilly are the keystones of the academic experience. In this course, the instructor will provide instruction in an objective manner and will remain open to a wide variety of viewpoints, so long as those viewpoints are evidence-based and presented in a respectful way.

Additionally, students will be able to:

- Use close reading strategies to construct meaning from all types of texts describe and analyze literary elements including plot, theme, and point of view
- Make inferences, cite text evidence, and interpret information presented in literature, informational text, & diverse media
- Determine the central idea of informational and nonfiction texts and analyze key elements
- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research
- Expand working grade-level vocabulary and use appropriate academic terms
- Compare and contrast a variety of texts, literary genres, topics and themes
- Demonstrate command of standard English conventions (capitalization, punctuation, and spelling) when writing or speaking
- Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening
- Write proficiently in a variety of formal and informal styles focusing on argumentative and informative formats
- Use technology to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others
- Engage effectively in collaborative discussions based on relevant topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and clearly expressing their own ideas



Classroom Rules, Procedures, and Daily Expectations:

All students are expected to:

- Be **Respectful** of yourself, others and the classroom
- Be **Responsible** with your time and prepared to learn
 - Cell Phones should not be seen or heard (unless being used for an assignment)
 - Food, drinks other than water, and personal grooming are not permitted in class
 - Study at home
- Be **Trustworthy**, don't cheat or plagiarize.
- Practice good **Citizenship** and respect the different viewpoints of your peers.
- Be **Caring** and understand that we all have the same end goal- to learn and prosper.
- Exhibit **Fairness** with communal/classroom supplies

****Student's conduct grade will be determined based on how successful the student has been at honoring our expectations.**

Daily Materials:

- Novels and/or textbooks
- Earbuds
- School issued Chromebook
- Pencils, blue/black pens, & highlighters
- Folder for course materials
- One composition notebook

Books:

Our units and curriculum are based on novel studies. Students will have access to every novel through the use of a classroom/personal copy of the book. Students are expected to treat classroom novels with the utmost care and consideration. Students will be asked to replace class copies of novels that are lost or damaged. In addition to assigned novels, students will need to independently read novels of their choice to meet their Accelerated Reader (AR) goals. Students will be responsible for obtaining the books they choose to read to meet their AR goals.

Plagiarism / Honor Code:

Students are expected to complete and submit their own original work and use resources with honesty and integrity. It is unethical, illegal, and academically dishonest to use another written work without proper credit or citation. Students will be expected to adhere to the school policy or face consequences according to the Discipline Policy. A grade of zero will be issued for the assignment and other discipline consequences may apply if there is evidence of plagiarism or cheating.

Classroom Chromebooks and Headsets:

Please bring your own earbuds and Chromebooks every day. We will be using Chromebooks on a daily basis. Students are to take care of their assigned Chromebook and report any damage to me immediately.

Google Classroom:

Google Classroom is an excellent tool that we will use on a daily basis. It is a virtual classroom that you may access at any time. Here, I will post classwork, important links, videos, handouts, and assignments. Please check your Google Classroom every day.



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Homework Expectations:

Homework will be assigned as reinforcement or review of the daily class activities. In addition, if students do not finish classwork during the time provided in class, they will be expected to complete the unfinished assignment at home and return it the following day. I also recommend that students read a book of their choice for 30-40 minutes daily. All students are responsible for managing their work on Google Classroom. Special projects and writing assignments will be assigned in advance, so students can plan accordingly. In order to receive full credit, all assignments should be completed neatly, accurately, and on time.

Assessment Policy:

There will be a major assessment in the form of an essay, project, or unit test and additional quizzes and assignments throughout each unit. The student is responsible for scheduling a make-up time to meet with me to make-up tests, quizzes, or classroom assignments when absent.

Grading:

Grades will be determined based on classwork, homework, quizzes, projects, assessments, and other assignments as appropriate for the course. Each assignment and assessment will be out of 100 points. The final course grade will be based on the following percentages:

Assessments 40% Classwork 25% Quizzes 20% Homework 15%

*** A grade of "0" is given when the assignment is not turned in. The "0" will turn into the appropriate grade if the child is absent or turning in late work. A letter grade of "X" means that the student is excused from the assignment and it does not affect their grade.

Conduct Grades

Quarterly, students are given conduct grades for elective and core courses based on the following scale:

E - Excellent: The student's conduct is constructive to learning. The student always follows directions, exceeds expectations, uses class time wisely, brings the required materials to class, actively participates, obeys school and class rules, demonstrates a positive and cooperative attitude, practices self-control, demonstrates respect for people and property, and makes an effort to do well on classroom assignments and activities.

S - Satisfactory: The student's conduct is generally constructive to learning. The student consistently follows directions, uses class time wisely, and brings the required materials to class. The student consistently participates in class activities, obeys school and class rules, demonstrates a positive and cooperative attitude, practices self-control, demonstrates respect for people and property, and makes an effort to do well on classroom assignments and activities.

N - Needs Improvement: The student's conduct is detrimental to his or her own learning. In spite of parent communication, the student is still inconsistently following directions, does not use class time wisely, often forgets to bring required materials to class, does not actively participate in class activities, does not consistently obey school and class rules, and is often unprepared for class.

U - Unsatisfactory: The student's conduct is detrimental to his or her own learning and the learning of others. Even after a parent conference, the student rarely follows directions and often depicts behavior that interferes with the progress and flow of the classroom. The student does not actively participate or make an effort to do well on classroom assignments and activities.



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Late Work:

Homework will not be accepted late. Late homework assignments will receive a grade of “0” or zero. All other class assignments may be submitted up to the next class meeting with a penalty of 10% off. Assignments not submitted by the next class meeting will receive a grade of “0” or zero. Late classwork grades will only be given to those who have an excused absence.

Absence Make-Up Procedure:

If you know ahead of time that you will be out of school, please get your assignments before you leave. If you are absent due to illness or another circumstance, please email me when it is possible.

- Handouts or other materials from missed classes will be kept on Google Classroom.
- The student is responsible for picking up, monitoring, and scheduling all missed work or other activities.
- Students will have one day for each day of an excused absence to make up work in accordance with middle school policy.
- If an assignment was due the day of the first absence, the student must submit the assignment upon return to school or the work will be considered late.

Teacher/Parent/Student Communication:

Family involvement is an essential element of a student's success. Be positive and supportive of homework, but please do not give them too much assistance. Students need to be able to work independently in order to succeed in 7th grade and prepare for high school and beyond. Students are expected to do their best on their homework and try to complete every section on their own.

Steps to successful communication:

1. Hold your child accountable for the work that is required and give them the opportunity to problem-solve when they come across a challenge at home. They can come to see me before or after school.
2. If you have any questions, the best way to contact me is by email at kconiff@adhus.fau.edu I will make every effort to get back to you within 24 hours.
3. I would also recommend that you secure your child's FOCUS software access code and monitor your child's grade regularly through this web-based system. Codes can be secured from the front office by a parent.
4. Accept the parent link for Google Classroom to stay informed on assignments and other announcements.

If you have any questions or need extra help, please ask me in class or come and see me before or after school. I look forward to another wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Kristen Coniff