Holston Middle School 2016- 2017

7th Grade English Language Arts

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**Course Description:**

* Seventh grade is an exciting time of discovery and growth for all students. In English/Language Arts, we explore various literary and media genre that include the following: fiction, poetry, drama, nonfiction, and novel studies and will reflect, interpret, analyze, research and synthesize through various modes of writing. As we venture through taking perspectives, considering numerous and novel ideas, and conquering new territory, we will grow as **readers, writers, and people**. English/Language Arts instruction for students in seventh grade addresses the English/Language Arts standards, learning expectations and accomplishments from the Tennessee Department of Education English/Language Arts curriculum found on <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy>.

**Instruction:**

**Course Concepts:**

* + Reading Literature
  + Reading Informational Text
  + Writing – Expository, Narrative, Argumentative
  + Speaking & Listening
  + Language

**General Pacing:**

Students will progress through the course in modules centered around a common theme that guides the reading, writing, and grammar content.

**Necessary Classroom Materials:**

* + Loose-leaf, college-lined paper
  + Pencils
  + Red Pens and Black Pens
  + Highlighter
  + (2) 3-prong folder
  + Composition notebook

**Course Resources:**

Reading Textbook—*Literature: The Common Core Edition* (Prentice Hall)

Discovery Education audio visuals

Outside Reading (articles and web-based resources)

The following novels *may* be used: *The Giver, Watsons Go to Birmingham, Seedfolk, Al Capone Does My Shirts, Hunger Games, Esperanza Rising, The Midwife’s Apprentice, I Am the Cheese, Pictures of Hollis Woods, The Outsiders, Stargirl, A Night to Remember*

\*If you do not approve of a specific resource listed in this syllabus, please make your request to your student’s teacher in writing and an alternative assignment and/or materials will be provided. The request should include your name, student’s name, the specific activity/materials in which you do not want your child to participate or to which you do not want them exposed, and the nature of your objection.

**General Expectations: RAPS**

R: **Respect** yourself, others, and our school. Follow teacher’s FIRST request.

A: **Attend** everyday on time.

P: **Personal Responsibility.** Students are expected to take ownership of their learning. Be prepared with all materials and try your BEST.

S: **Safety:** Keep hands, feet, mouth, and objects to yourself.

**Grading will follow Knox County Schools Policy**

* + A= 93-100
  + B= 85-92
  + C= 75-84
  + D= 70-74
  + F= 69 and below

**Grading Categories:**

\*45% - Tests, projects, and papers

\*40% - Homework, class work, class participation

\*15% - Anchor Projects

**Assignments:**

Students will be responsible for keeping ALL assignments and classwork in their ELA Folder on their computer and/or folder in class. Explanations will be given in class concerning how to organize the ELA folder. Assignments include the following:

* **Writing Tasks**- Writing tasks will be given frequently to prepare students for the TNReady. They will be creating expository, narrative, and argumentative writings throughout the year.
* **Class work –** This may include notes, practice activities, individual, and group activities.
* **Homework** – Occasionally students will be given written assignments to complete at home. The students will be given a due date for each assignment.
* **PBL Projects** – Students will participate in at least two project-based activities throughout the year. Longer assignments will be chunked into smaller parts and will include frequent checkpoints to monitor progress. Time will be provided in class to assist students. Student *will* need time outside of the classroom to complete research, gather materials, and work on projects. A parent letter will be sent with your student informing you of the project requirements.
* **Quizzes and Test** – Quizzes will be given periodically to assess the learning.
* **Late work** - Work turned in late will be subject to a deduction in points. **Late projects** (essays, presentations, etc.) will be dropped one letter grade for each day that they are late.
  + **All work must be turned in on time to earn full credit unless:**
    - You have an excused absence.
    - You talk with me at least 24 hours before the due date and are granted an extension.
    - You have a note from a parent/guardian with an acceptable reason why the work is late (traumatic event, family emergency, etc.)
* **NOTE: Sports, performances, etc. are prior known choices, not acceptable reasons for late schoolwork.**
* **Make-up work policy:**

If a student is absent, he/she may use any of the following guidelines to obtain his/her assignment for the missed class:

1. Call a dependable friend or classmate for the assignment.
2. Check our Canvas page.
3. If a student is out more than three days, call the office in the morning by 9:45 to request assignments to be sent to the office by the end of the day. Students are responsible for making up any missed assignment, quiz, and/or test. Students must schedule a time for any make-ups the day he/she returns to school. I recommend that make-up quizzes and tests be scheduled before or after school so that students do not miss out on instruction time. If a student is unable to schedule make-up quizzes or tests before or after school hours, arrangements can be made to make it up during class. If a student does not make up the work missed, then he/she will receive a zero on the missed work. Knox County board policy states that students have the same number of days to make up an assignment as days missed.

* **Parent Portal Posting Policy:**
* Communication with the student and parent will be done through Canvas or email. Grades will be posted in Aspen and updated at least once a week.

**Knox County School Board Policy on Religion in the Curriculum** can be found at <http://knoxschools.org/cms/lib7/TN01917079/Centricity/domain/974/policies2016/I-431%20Religion%20in%20the%20Curriculum.pdf>

The Policy states:

* + The Board affirms that it is essential that the teaching about religion—and not of a religion be conducted in a factual, objective and respectful manner in accordance with the following:
    - 1. Music, art, literature, or drama with a religious theme or basis are permitted as part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs provided it is essential to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively;
    - 2. The emphasis on religious themes in the arts, literature and history shall be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of these areas. Such studies shall never foster any particular religious tenets or demean any religious beliefs; and
    - 3. Student-initiated expressions to questions or assignments which reflect their beliefs or non-beliefs about a religious theme shall be accommodated. For example, students are free to express religious belief or non-belief in compositions, art forms, music, speech and debate.

**Helpful Websites:**

* + Canvas
    - <https://knoxschools.instructure.org>
  + Holston Middle School Homepage
    - <http://holstonms.knoxschools.org>
  + Knox County Schools Homepage
    - <http://www.knoxschools.org>
  + Aspen (grades)
    - From Knox County Schools homepage, click on “popular links” tab.
    - Select “Aspen” from the menu

**Teacher Contact Information:**

* + Parents should expect a midterm report about four and a half weeks into each 9- week period and a report card at the end of each 9- week period.
  + If you need to contact the teacher, you may use the e-mails listed on the front of this syllabus or call 865-594-1300 between 10:15-11:10. Please be aware that emails can be returned much more quickly than phone calls.

**PLAGIARISM:**

According to Harbrace Handbook, 15th edition:

**“Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else’s ideas, research, or opinion as your own without proper documentation, even if it has been rephrased. It includes, but is not limited to the following:**

1. Copying verbatim all or part of another’s written work;

2. Using phrases, figures, or illustrations without citing the source;

3. Paraphrasing ideas, conclusions, or research without citing the source;

4. Using all or part of a literary plot, poem, or film without attributing the work to

its creator.”

**Consequences of Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a form of stealing and academic fraud. Students who are found guilty of plagiarism will have the option of either redoing the assignment within a specified time period and accepting a grade letter drop, or taking a zero on the assignment. Parents should be involved in making the decision.

## The Honor Statement: "An essential feature of Holston Middle School is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the Holston Middle School, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity."

By signing on the line below, I hereby agree to the honor statement above.

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

The honor statement above will be kept at the front of your binder, and will be re-visited throughout the year.

Please sign below that you have read and discussed this, (Mrs. Mitchell’s/Mrs. English’s/Mrs. Ogle’s/Mr. Cooper’s) Language Arts Syllabus, with your child.

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