

Course Description

Welcome to English Language Arts! When considering the written aspect of our native language, there are two indispensable skills: Writing and Reading.

So guess what we're going to do a lot of?

This course is designed to expose you to a variety of literature in various forms from around the world, and allow you to read the text closely – enabling you to pull out relevant information and apply that to informative and argumentative writing.

Additionally, this class hopes to strengthen your writing voice, through a variety of written assignments, from book reports to poetry.

So be prepared to read, and be prepared to write.

Grading Policy

Assessments – 20%

Homework – 50%

Classroom Participation – 30%

Grading Policy Breakdown

Assessments:

Assessments (aka tests and quizzes) are chiefly given to evaluate whether or not you've been keeping up with the assigned readings. This being said, students will be forewarned about all upcoming tests and quizzes, and have ample time to prepare.

Homework:

This section is broken down further into two aspects –

Homework – 20% of final grade

Projects – 30% of final grade

For all intents and purposes, “Homework” will be defined as any graded work that has been completed during the class period, and any short assignments that are due the next class period (with some exceptions given for longer assignments given over the weekend)

“Projects” will be defined as longer, more effort-intensive assignments. Students will be given more time to complete these projects than they will be given for homework.

Classroom Participation:

ELA is a very discussion-oriented class, so it is important that students be present for class and behave in a way that is conducive to active learning. The following chart indicates how students will be graded in this category:

1 point	1 point	1 point	1 point
Student arrives to class on time, ready and willing to pay attention and work cooperatively.	Student arrives with all necessary materials (binder, textbook, writing implement, Etc.)	Student works well with peers, and does not behave in a way that is distracting to themselves and others.	Student makes a visible effort in class. This includes class discussion and classwork.

Class Rules:

You may bring your cell phone to class, but keep it on “off” or “silent.” Do not keep it on the desk or anywhere visible. Trick me into thinking that you don't even have one. If you are caught using your phone for any reason other than class work, it will be confiscated and returned at the end of class.

Students will be allowed to sit wherever they'd like. However, if a student takes advantage of this freedom and spends the classtime speaking with their neighbor, rather than listening to the teacher, they will be moved to a new seat.

Food and water is allowed in the classroom. My rule for this is “don't give my classroom ants.” This means that you can't have any liquid that becomes sticky when spilt, and no food that leaves an excessive amount of crumbs.

Do not put any paper material in the trash cans. Put it in recycling.

All missed assignments and quizzes will be made up. Class handouts and homework assignments will be placed in a folder outside the classroom, and students are responsible for retrieving them. Quizzes/tests will be made up at the student's first available time.

Late work **will** be accepted, but it will lose a letter grade for every day it is late. For example, an "A" paper would become a "B" paper if handed in the day after it is due.

Attendance:

Students are expected to be present for 85% of the year's total classes. Any students who miss more class than this will be considered for retention. All absences, both legal and illegal, will need to be accompanied by a written excuse.

Tardiness will also require a written excuse.

Academic Integrity Policy

Definition of cheating:

- 1.) Submitting work completed by another as if it were your own. This includes (but isn't limited to) plagiarism from the Internet, printed material (books, magazines, etc.), or a friend.
- 2.) Allowing another to use or submit your work. In regards to lab reports, a student may share data, but not calculations nor write-ups

Procedures to follow:

- 1.) Take homework paper from students.
- 2.) Fill out a Discipline Referral Form (in triplicate)
 - a.) Principal – with papers stapled to this copy
 - b.) Academic Teacher
 - c.) Parent
- 3.) The Discipline Referral Form is mailed home to the parent and the principal calls the parent.

I have read and understand the above rules and expectations for the 2016-2017 school year.

Student Signature _____

Date: _____

I have read and understand the above rules and expectations for my student for the 2016-2017 school year.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date: _____