English 7

Course Expectations

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**Course Description:**

Welcome to English 7. This one-year course provides instruction in the English/Language Arts strands identified by the Common Core State Standards as Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening, and Language. This course is designed to build on knowledge and skills through close reading of texts, writing to analyze and reflect, and class discussions. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills the seventh grade English requirement.

**Course Goals:**

1. Become a confident, purposeful, and focused **writer**
2. Increase working **vocabulary**
3. Understand **sentence** structures
4. Identify and correctly use the English **parts of speech**
5. Increase **spelling** proficiency
6. Use **punctuation** marks and **capital letters** correctly
7. Write with a **Narrative**, **Descriptive**, **Expository**, and **Persuasive** focus
8. Increase **reading** speed and comprehension
9. Read and analyze works in the following genres: **Short Story**, **Nonfiction**, **Poetry**, **Drama**, and **Myths, Folk Tales, & Legends**
10. Become a close **listener** and a confident **speaker**

**Specific Assignments:**

1. Grammar, Writing, and Literature Notes
2. Grammar Exercises and Worksheets
3. Reading Responses
4. Essays
5. Peer Editing Sheets
6. Speeches
7. Speech Response Forms
8. Spelling Tests
9. Vocabulary Tests
10. Other assignments at the discretion of the instructor

**General Rules:**

\*Respect is the key to most of what we do in life. This is especially true in the classroom. Please keep this in mind throughout the year, and do your best to live up to the following expectations:

1. Communicate respect and consideration to every person who enters the classroom.
2. Be prepared for each class period with all necessary class materials.
3. Be on time.
4. Complete all assignments on time.
5. Participate in all class activities.
6. Keep hands, feet, and inappropriate comments to yourself.
7. Follow all directions the first time that they are given.
8. No food, drinks, or gum in class.
9. No cell phone use in class.

**Required Materials:**

1. Laptop (when necessary)
2. Spiral Notebook
3. Writing Utensil

**Grading Scale:**

\*You essentially control your own destiny as far as your grades are concerned. Your level of success will depend on how much you progress during the course of the year. Please talk to me if you ever have any questions or concerns regarding your grade.

A=90%-100%

B=80%-89%

C=70%-79%

D=60%-69%

F=59% and below

**Grading Categories:**

20%--Assignments and Participation

40%--Essays and Projects

40%--Tests and Quizzes

**Make-up Work:**

It is the responsibility of all students to check for make-up work following an absence. Students will be given three days from the date of their return to school to make up any missed assignments. If you are absent the day an assignment is due, you must turn it in at the beginning of class on the day you return to school.

**Late Work:**

Any assignments that are turned in late will receive the following deductions in addition to their scored grade:

One day late—10% Reduction

Two days late—20% Reduction

Three days late—30% Reduction

Four or more days late—No Credit

**Formatting of Assignments:**

All assignments must include your **name,** the **date**, and the class **period number** to receive full credit. Essays will need to be typed and research projects must use MLA format. When submitting your work online as a file or in an email, please list the file name and email subject as **Your Full Name** along with the **Name of the Assignment**.

**Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism:**

Student tests, essays, and assignments may be disqualified without the right of make-up when plagiarism is evident or the teacher’s test procedures have been violated. Academic honesty is vital to the success of all students. When students engage in academic dishonesty, their work and their evidence of true ability is compromised.

*Academic Dishonesty* can take any of the following forms:

1. Copying another student’s work
2. Allowing someone else to copy your work
3. Passing information to another student relating to a test
4. Having someone else do your work for you

*Plagiarism* is quite simply defined as “the act of using another person’s words or ideas without giving credit to that person” ([www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/plagiarism](http://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/plagiarism)).

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. A referral will be given for the act of cheating. Students who are found to be in violation of the Academic Honesty Policy will be subject to academic and/or administrative disciplinary action. An automatic zero will be given for the assignment with no opportunity for resubmission.

The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty and/or committed plagiarism will be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or another supervising professional employee. This judgment will be based on written work, student observations, and/or other information related to the incident.

Thank you very much for your time and attention. I hope that this year will be a great one for all of us. If you ever have any questions, please let me know immediately.