



Sequoia Charter School

Course Syllabus – 8th Grade English Language Arts, 8th Grade Honors English Language Arts, 7th Grade Honors English Language Arts

Course Information

Period: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6
Class Location: BLDG 2 Room 203
E-Mail: kmcwhorter@edkey.org

Teacher Information

Name: Kendra McWhorter
Phone: 480-649-7737 ext. 10203
Office Hours: Before and after school

Course Description:

In junior high school English Language Arts class, students will explore a variety of topics related to reading, writing, and language usage. Honors seventh graders and all eighth graders will read and discuss a wide variety of literary prose and poetry, as well as non-fiction selections. Students will learn to analyze texts, and respond to said texts in both written and verbal forms; in so doing, students will hone their communication skills through discussions and various writing assignments. In order to enhance their writing and speaking skills, students will be introduced to grammar and usage concepts throughout the school year.

Course Competencies/ Learning Objectives

Students who successfully complete 8th Grade English Language Arts will be competent in the following areas:

- Citing textual evidence to support the analysis of a text
- Determining the meaning of words and phrases used in texts based on various clues
- Determining the themes of fiction texts and the main ideas of a non-fiction texts
- Identifying and assessing claims in an argumentative text
- Reading and comprehending a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction texts
- Writing arguments to support claims
- Writing informative/explanatory texts
- Writing narratives

Attendance

Attendance is vital to academic success. We expect students to attend school every day so that they will have the greatest opportunity to have a successful academic year. A student who has 10 absences (excused or unexcused) from a class within a semester may be withdrawn from the class. The student may lose the credit for that class, but may recover the credit by taking the class on-line or in a traditional class setting the following school year.

Online Grade Book

Did you know that you can access your child's grades and assignments? Parents and students should monitor grades regularly by accessing the online grade book, Powerschool. Parents will be assigned a confidential access code to Power School that will allow them to see your child's grades, assignments, and attendance in each class. To take advantage of this

powerful tool, parents should go to <http://edkey.powerschool.com> and enter their ID and password. You can receive your ID and password from the front office.

Classroom Expectations

1. Arrive to class on time
2. Bring all required materials to class each day
3. Be respectful to peers, self, and teacher
4. Try your best every day, and ask questions whenever necessary
5. No electronic devices are to be used in class unless instructor gives permission for instructional purposes

Grades and Scale

Below 60% is considered "Incomplete." An "incomplete" signifies that a student has not mastered the essential standards or requirements of the course, and must therefore re-take it.

Weight scale

- Class participation / attendance 10%
- Homework: 10%
- Projects/Papers / labs: 30%
- Classwork: 25%
- Quizzes /Test: 25%

Tardy

Students are encouraged and expected to be in their class on time. A tardy is defined as "not being in an assigned seat when the bell rings". If a student is tardy six or more times in a five week period, he/she will be assigned to Behavior Intervention Program (BIP) by administration.

Suspensions

If a student is suspended, he/she may not make up the 'day to day' assignments. However, if there is a major test, project, or paper due during the suspension, the student must still make up those assignments. Sequoia's late/missing work policy will be upheld for these assignments as well.

- Note: A student has the equal amount of days suspended to complete all missing assignments.

Class Requirements/Materials

One composition notebook to be left in the classroom

Pencils

Blue or black pens

Spiral notebook to complete assignments out of class

One folder for English Language Arts use only

Important: If you are having trouble with this class, seek help immediately. If you wait till the end of the marking period, it most likely will be TOO LATE to receive the proper amount of help to influence your grade.

Please go over this with your parents/guardians, as the student and the parent/guardian are required to sign and return before August 12, 2016.

The signature portion will be counted as a homework assignment, and there will be a quiz over the material.

-----**Please cut along the line and return**-----

My student _____ has gone through the Syllabus for 8th Grade English Language Arts. We are both aware of the expectations of the class.

Please Print Parent Name _____

Parent preferred contact method: Email Phone

- Email address: _____
- Phone number: _____

Parent Signature

Student Signature