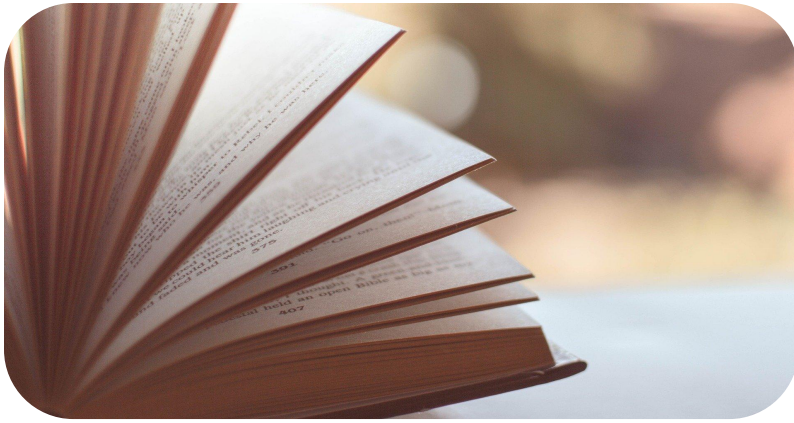


7th Grade English Language Arts



Course Description

Welcome to 7th grade English Language Arts. Our goal for the year is to learn to read and think as writers, to look at texts through a writer's eye. We will be reading and writing poetry, as well as narrative, informational, and argumentative texts. You will have the opportunity to read engaging, thought provoking texts and novels you won't want to put down. By examining these exemplary

texts, you will build your skills as a writer and be able to communicate your ideas effectively. We will also spend time building your vocabulary and technology skills. Discussion, both speaking and listening, as well as working in collaboration with others will play a large role in class and help to prepare you for high school and beyond. I look forward to spending the year learning with you!

Essays, Projects, Grades

Essays, projects, and research: Throughout the year students will demonstrate their own analysis of texts and class concepts through independent and group activities. There will be a minimum of one major writing activity and/or project every unit.

Grades are cumulative through the end of each semester and will be based on demonstrated mastery of concepts and the development of skills. Updated grade reports will be posted on Infinite Campus/Parent Portal so students and parents may continually monitor academic progress. You can access Infinite Campus at <http://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/>. Please contact the school office for more information on logging in. Grade reports will go out every 4 ½ weeks.

Grading Policy

40% - formative grades (weekly quizzes, short writing assignments, & mini-projects)

60% - summative grades (tests, major projects & essays)

Homework

Homework is not busywork. Any homework assigned is necessary for you to complete in order to participate in class the next day or to develop important skills. If you choose not to complete the assigned work, you are missing out on the opportunity to learn and grow.

Homework assignments may include, but are not limited to:

- Independent reading
- Close reading assignments
- Drafting, revising, and editing pieces of writing
- Vocabulary activities
- Studying for quizzes and tests

Classroom Policies, Procedures & Grading

Entering Class: Students are to come into class prepared with needed materials: **A composition notebook, 1 folder with prongs or binder** and homework if assigned and quickly find their seat. The agenda will be posted on the whiteboard. Students should write the agenda daily.

Bathroom Usage: You must have a hall pass and sign in and out of the classroom. Only one student is permitted to use the bathroom at a time.

Food & Electronic Devices: Food and drink, with the exception of a water bottle, are not permitted outside of the cafeteria. Personal electronics should be silenced and kept in your bookbag unless devices are used in class.

Exiting Class: In the last five minutes of class, you will wrap up what you are working on and return materials to the appropriate locations.

Following your teacher's signal, line up with your class. Your teacher, not the bell, dismisses you upon completion of these tasks.

Absences: It is the student's responsibility to turn in work on time and to submit work after an absence in a timely manner. Make up work needs to be turned in by the third day after

the last day of absence. Late work will be assigned a penalty to the grade as follows:

1 day late - 10 points off
2 days late- 20 points off
3 days late – 30 points off
4 days late – see your teacher for specific instructions

No work will be accepted after the grading period in which it was assigned.

Teacher websites

This year teachers will be utilizing an online classroom called Canvas. The teachers on the team routinely post useful information about class activities and upcoming assignments on their Canvas page. There is a link for Canvas on the school website. Students will use the same login information that they use to login to school computers. Parents and guardians may also obtain an account on Canvas to see their child's assignments.

Classroom Expectations & Consequences

I expect all students to work hard and be nice. Meeting these classroom expectations and behaving appropriately in class helps to create a learning environment where you and your classmates feel welcome, safe, and respected.

If you choose to meet the classroom expectations, you will receive a **positive consequence**, such as praise from your teacher, classmates, school leadership; a positive note or phone call home; special privileges/activities, and awards.

If you choose not to meet the classroom expectations, you will receive a **negative consequence**, such as a verbal warning, a change of seat, a phone call home, a detention at lunch or after school, a parent/guardian meeting, and for severe infractions of school rules, suspension.

Academic Vocabulary

Academic Vocabulary will be taught throughout the duration of the year. Students will show their learning of academic vocabulary through announced quizzes and summatives throughout the year. Throughout the year we will also be focusing on grammar and stems in addition to vocabulary. These topics may also appear on formatives and summatives. Academic vocabulary can be found on the whiteboard and bulletin board.