



NWMS 7th Grade English Language Arts Course Syllabus

Course Name: 7th Grade English Language Arts

Course Description: This course will target students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussion, reflection, and viewing. Reading strategies, critical thinking skills, and vocabulary building comprise the main elements of reading instructions. Through fiction, nonfiction, and poetry reading, students will practice reading strategies and comprehension skills. The focus of writing will be on narrative, informational, and argumentative. The overall goal of the class is to increase the literacy and writing ability of students.

Course Standards and Themes

Reading:

- Cite textual evidence to support analysis of text
- Determine and summarize central idea and theme of text
- Analyze craft and structure for comprehension
- Use reading comprehension and critical thinking strategies, elements of literature, poetic elements, text features, summarizing, analysis.

Writing:

- Narrative, Informational (Explanatory), research, and Argumentative Writing
- Literary writing—provide text-based responses to literature and poetry
- Respond to nonfiction articles and essays

Speaking and Listening:

- Engage in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher led) on topics, texts and issues to build perspective and understanding of text

Language:

- Demonstrate a command of conventions
- Use grade level appropriate vocabulary
- Use and understand figurative language and nuances in word meanings

Course Resources

- *Literature: Language and Literacy 7*, Prentice Hall (short stories, poetry, drama)
- *Novels: Touching Spirit Bear, The Outsiders*, and choice of text for literature study

Course Outline/Instructional Units

SEMESTER ONE

Novel study/Literary analysis (*Touching Spirit Bear*)

Essays/Writing for variety of audiences

Drama

Vocabulary – Commonly confused words, Literature Dependent words

Grammar – Parts of speech, basic sentence structure

Speech/Oral Presentation

SEMESTER TWO

Short Story Unit (Plot, Setting, Character, Theme)

Novel Unit – (*The Outsiders*)

Poetry

Narrative and Informational Writing

Non Fiction –reading for information

Grading

NWMS Grade Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93% and above
A-	90% - 92%
B+	88% - 89%
B	83% - 87%
B-	80% - 82%
C+	78% - 79%
C	73% - 77%
C-	70% - 72%
D+	68% - 69%
D	60% - 67%
F	50% - 59% *

**The lowest percentage entered in the gradebook will be 50%. This is the scaled score for an F.*

Grade Categories and Weighting

Category	Percentage of Overall Grade
Formative Assessments	45%
Summative Assessments	45%
Work Habits	10%

Grade Reporting

Students and parents can check grades at any time online through Family Access (contact the Main Office for help accessing Family Access).

- Teachers will update grades at least every 2 weeks.
- Progress reports will be available every quarter (9 weeks) through Family Access. If you do not have online access, contact the Main Office for a hard copy of the progress report.

- Report cards (official grades) are produced at the end of each semester (18 weeks), and are available through Family Access. If you do not have online access, contact the Main Office for a hard copy of the progress report.

Re-Do Policy

Work assigned in class is important for learning and to determine student progress. Students are expected to complete ALL major assignments to standard, even if they turn in the work late or need to re-do the work.

Late work will be accepted, and the grade may be reduced to reflect poor work habits. Work turned in on time and demonstrating full effort may be re-done for up to full credit. In order to re-do part or all of a major assignment, the student must:

1. Talk with the teacher to understand what needs to be done for re-do.
2. Demonstrate effort to improve or re-learn the material (determined by the teacher).
3. Complete the revised work within 2 weeks (or other agreed upon deadline) of receiving the original graded work.

Extra Help

NWMS expects all students to meet the learning targets and earn passing grades in their classes. For students who need more time or individualized instruction to be successful, opportunities for extra help are available. Students are encouraged to seek extra help on their own as soon as they recognize that they are struggling. Also, teachers may assign students to come in for extra help when they see a student falling behind or struggling.

Teachers are available before and after school to provide extra help for students on a regular basis. Teachers will provide a schedule of extra help times that they will be available in their classroom. Special arrangements can be made by contacting the teacher directly via email or phone.

NWMS Plagiarism Policy

Any student, who knowingly turns in any work that has been done by someone other than himself or herself, and fraudulently represents it as his/her own, shall be considered to have cheated. Cheating also includes: aiding someone else in cheating, the use or preparation of written, pictorial, or other materials not authorized by the instructor during a test or assignment, the use of testing materials obtained previous to the test date, or plagiarism of any kind.

The first violation of cheating will be handled at the classroom level and will result in:

1. Parent notification.
2. Administration notification.
3. Re-do the assignment without cheating and with added supervision or conditions; the final grade for this assignment may be reduced up to 50% as consequence for cheating.

Students who cheat repeatedly will also be subject to an office referral, which could result in a suspension.