

Marsh Junior High School
7th Grade Language Arts – Honors
Mr. Stephens
Room B-4

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Course Description:

In reading, students will focus on comprehension and analytical reading skills through the study of a variety of authors and genres. Students will learn how successful readers think and visualize when they read, interact with, and examine text.

In writing, students will focus on narrative, explanatory (also called Response to Literature), and argumentative writing. Additionally, students will learn how to write meaningful and concise short responses and summaries, while correctly using MLA citation with **a heavy emphasis on using textual evidence** through direct quotation and paraphrasing. To supplement writing skills, students will use the online grammar and language program IXL, doing lessons independently throughout the year.

A central goal of this class is for students to improve critical thinking and problem solving skills through independent and collaborative projects. Students will have access to and be expected to use technology to produce and present original work through essays and presentations. We will use Google Classroom and other Google apps to post and submit forms, readings, assignments, projects, and essays. You will need to familiarize yourself with Google Classroom; if you need help, please ask, I will walk you through the website.

As an Honors class, the pace of the curriculum will be accelerated. Students will read the novels determined by ELA teachers in the district in alignment with IXL curriculum, and additional novels based on interest and ability. Moreover, students will be asked to write more frequently and more rigorously in this class. They may have heavier workloads for homework and be expected to read during the evenings and sometimes, weekends. For reading and writing, students will be asked to develop stronger and deeper levels of analysis, and will be expected to strengthen the communication of analysis through various means (full-length essays, presentations, Google Slides, etc.) Strong organizational and time-management skills are expected for all successful honors students.

Evaluation:

Semester grades are based on participation, attitude, and ALL work in class (tests, short responses, homework, projects, warm-ups, etc.). Points will be converted into percentages as shown below. Your grade is the result of the work YOU put into your learning!

10%	Participation: behavior, energy, seated before bell with chromebook and pencil
15%	Warmups: must complete all warm-ups, <u>even when absent</u>
15%	Independent Reading (IR) and IXL
20%	In-Class Assignments and Homework
40%	Quizzes, Exams, Projects, Essays

A: 90% and above B: 80-89.9% C:70-79.9% D: 60-69.9% F: 59.9% and below

Honors Grade Requirement: Honors placement means that you have scored above grade level on your IXL diagnostic and your SBAC state test. In order to remain in honors English, you must have a grade of B- (80%) or above on your final semester report card. If you have a grade below an 80% then you will be dropped from honors at the semester. This is non-negotiable.

Late Work Policy, Absences, and Revisions

Late work will be accepted for a portion of the credit (**up to 50%**). Late work **MUST** be turned in during the unit of study. It will not be accepted after the unit is over. **When you are absent for any reason, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed.** You will need to make up work in a timely fashion before school, during lunch, and after school, **NOT DURING CLASS**. Check the daily agenda slides on Google Classroom for missed assignments, homework, and deadlines.

Revisions: for larger written assignments like essays, **you are allowed 1 revision per assignment**. Take your time to understand my feedback, and address all errors and necessary corrections before resubmitting.

Required Supplies:

- Must have the class novel with you at all times
- Charged Chromebook (loss of participation points if not charged and with you)
- Lined paper
- Must have a pencil or pen at all times (loss of participation points if without pen/pencil)

Rules and Expectations:

The Gator Way is the backbone of our classroom.

Be respectful: of your teachers, your classmates, yourself, and the classroom.

- Be respectful of other students' opinions and ways of thinking.
- Think before you speak: Is your comment constructive and helpful?
- No food including gum unless cleared by me; water in a water bottle is encouraged!

Be responsible:

- Be in your seat with your materials out when the bell rings (Tardy Policy in class procedures).
- Be prepared with the right materials (chromebook out on the daily agenda)
- Do your **OWN** work, and turn it in on time. **Plagiarism will result in a zero score.** What is plagiarism and what does it look like?
- **TRY!** Hardwork always pays off. This is my most important rule.

Be safe:

- Follow directions, Marsh school rules, and classroom procedures and expectations.
- You always have a choice, and every choice has consequences - both positive and negative.

Individual Consequences:

Our learning environment is based on everyone doing their part. As a teacher, I cannot allow one student to distract the entire class's learning experience. It is your responsibility to check yourself and understand that every choice you make has a consequence. Negative consequences force me to address your choices.

1. Verbal intervention
2. Refocus and physical remove yourself from the classroom
3. If behavior continues, parent meeting via phone or in person
4. Administration is involved

-----Detach from syllabus and bring with you to tomorrow's class-----

Parents and Guardians: Please contact me (email preferred) if you wish to discuss your child's progress or if you have any questions/comments. Also, please keep me updated if there is anything I should be aware of (ex: leaving town for long periods of time, prolonged illness, moving etc.) so that I can support your child as best as possible. If you would like a digital copy of this syllabus, you can find it on your child's English Google Classroom under the "Classwork Tab" on the home screen.

**Syllabus may change – Mr. Stephens*

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Preferred Method of Contact
Text/Call/Email