

Maxwell High School

Mr. Spencer Johnson

English Language Arts

2025 – 2026 School Year

Dear Students, Parents and/or Guardians:

Welcome to my English Language Arts class! It is my hope that students in my classes will have a year full of exciting academic growth that will prepare them for the years to come. I look forward to the year ahead!

Course Objectives- 1. Explore intricate literary works to enhance critical thinking and analysis.

2. Gain a deeper grasp of literary techniques, cultural contexts, and themes.

3. Develop enhanced writing skills through essays and creative projects.

4. Hone argumentation and expression abilities for effective communication.

5. Participate in collaborative discussions to improve interpretation and communication.

6. Prepare for higher level education with skills tailored for college-level academics.

Attendance - Students must attend class regularly and participate in daily activities to pass English. Since we will be building on assignments that came before in class, regular attendance is VERY important to your student's success. The quality of work will be higher if students attend class regularly. Work can never be FULLY made up due to information missed when absent. There is always a loss of information from class discussion, explanation and announcements. For this reason, attendance is crucial to your student's success.

Absences and Make-up Work – Students are expected to make-up any work missed because of an EXCUSED absence. If a student has an EXCUSED absence, he or she will have the same number of days to makeup the work s/he missed during the absence. For example, if they were absent for two days, they have two days after they return to school to makeup the work. Homework that was assigned on the last day the student was in class is due on the day the student returns. If the student is absent on the date that a major project or presentation is due, the project or presentation is due on the day the student returns. Assignments that are based on participation points (such as warm-ups and group work) can be made up with an alternate assignment. It is the STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY to ask for the makeup work and schedule makeup test/quizzes immediately UPON THEIR RETURN.

Grading – Every assignment is worth points. The quarter grade is based on the total number of points received in that grading period as a percentage of the total points possible. The semester grade is a combination of two quarters and the final.

Extra Credit – Extra Credit may be given at my discretion when the opportunity for curricular enrichment arises.

Academic Honesty - Trustworthiness is a key Character pillar. All work submitted by students should be a true reflection of their effort and ability. If it is not, then the student has manifested unacceptable behavior. The following criteria define cheating:

- Claiming credit for work that is not the product of one's own honest effort.
- Providing unwarranted access to materials or information so that others may dishonestly claim credit.
- Representation of another person's words, ideas, as your own by not properly citing the source and giving the author credit.
- Copying off the internet.
- Knowledge and tolerating of the foregoing circumstances.

Any behavior which can be defined as cheating represents a violation of mutual trust and respect essential to education at Maxwell High School. Students who cheat should expect to be confronted by their teacher and will be subject to one or more the following penalties:

- a) A "zero" on the submitted work
- b) Referral for every violation
- c) Notification of parents
- d) Further disciplinary steps as deemed appropriate

If a student is found to have cheated a second time or is involved in a particularly serious act of cheating, the student will be referred to an assistant principal for a conference of those concerned: student, teacher, parents, counselor, and administrator. Consequences may include suspension from class and/or school; dropping the student from class with no credit; and/or notification of student's prospective colleges. On an additional note, if I find your student copying work for another class in my classroom, I will take the work and give it to the appropriate teacher.

Classroom Behavior – Student responsibilities in this class are:

1. To attend class regularly
2. To be on time
3. To be prepared for class
4. To be respectful
6. To be an actively involved group member
when appropriate
7. To have a positive attitude
8. To pay attention, listen, and not be using time unwisely

All students need to be positive, contributing members in this class. Be polite and thoughtful of each other. I do not expect or allow behavior problems. However, if your student's behavior prevents our class from functioning smoothly, I will follow the Maxwell High Discipline Plan outlined in the handbook. In the case of extreme behavior, your students will be sent immediately to the Principal, and you, will be notified.

Required Materials – Students MUST bring the following materials to class each day

1. Writing Utensil
2. Loose-leaf binder paper
3. Laptop

-Tardiness

Students are expected to be IN THEIR SEAT with the required materials and working on the warm-up when the bell rings. If they are not, they WILL BE MARKED TARDY.

Tardy Policy

Every instructional minute counts and student tardiness interferes with the learning process. Please be respectful of your teacher and fellow classmates and be on time to class.

Office Hours – I am available before school in Room 105. I will make appointments for other times when necessary.

To contact me directly, please email me at spencerjohnson@maxwellusd.net

Thank you, and I am looking forward to a fun and successful year as a community. GO PANTHERS!!

sincerely -Mr. Spencer Johnson

Thank you for taking time to read this letter and reviewing it with your child. Please keep the previous pages for future reference and sign and return this page.

Please detach and return to Mr. Johnson ASAP. This is a graded assignment!!

I have read and understand all the classroom procedures and information for Mr. Johnson's English class. By signing this, I am agreeing to follow all the classroom procedures and rules.

Student Name Period

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Student Signature Date

My primary mode of correspondence is email. If you have an email address, please include it. If you prefer I

contact you by telephone or text, please make a note of that also.

Parent Text Number

Parent Email Address

Parent Email Address

Student Email Address
