

8<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts

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Welcome to Hillcrest Middle School. This is going to be a great year! I believe the best way to achieve success is through high expectations, preparedness and parent/teacher communication. Please check Canvas weekly for lesson plans, documents and important information. If at any time you have a question or concern, please contact me immediately. We are all on the same team.

**CURRICULUM:** All assignments are based on Arizona College and Career Readiness standards, which are accessible on the Internet at <http://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/> and are aligned with our district approved curriculum.

Throughout the year, we will be working on vocabulary development. We will be doing several writing projects to continuously improve our writing skills through reflection. Students will also improve their reading comprehension by reading from a variety of novel studies, short stories, poetry and informational text. The use of the computer as a teaching tool will also be emphasized, particularly to communicate and share ideas.

We will work toward mastery of Reading comprehension and analysis using a combination of literature and non-fiction texts. In addition, we will improve the complexity of writing skills as well as speaking and listening communication skills.

My goal is to develop confident readers and strengthen vocabulary and comprehension skills using a variety of reading strategies. Students will receive a combination of whole-class and small group instruction. Students will be required to have a notebook and folder to ensure they can keep all of their paper belongings in one place. Students will also utilize Canvas to access notes and class activities/resources as well as maintain their own notes in their digital ELA folder.. Using technology as a tool will allow students to select notes, reflections and samples of writing to submit for a grade. Students will be keeping a digital running log of data showing their progress/growth throughout the school year.

Instructional strategies will support reading complex text and applying critical thinking skills through collaboration, speaking and listening, citing evidence to support claims/arguments, and annotating text using close reading. No Red Ink, an online writing and grammar program will be utilized this year to support differentiated instruction.

**SCHOOL MOTTO: RESPONSIBLE – RESPECTFUL – READY FOR THE FUTURE**

All students are expected to be good citizens, respectful and caring of each other, staff and materials. Students are also expected to put forth their very best efforts by being responsible. Students should also feel free to express their ideas within socially acceptable norms. Our combined goal is to prepare students for a successful school experience.

**TEACHER WEBSITE:** On my website is a link to Canvas where you will find lesson plans, documents and assignment requirements as well as some of the notes we take in class. Should your student be absent, all information regarding assignments can be found on Canvas.

As a student, your job is to come to class prepared and with a positive attitude and a few suggested supplies:

1. One spiral notebook. (70 page college ruled is sufficient)
2. One folder with two pockets
3. Pencils, pens (preferably black or blue), highlighters
4. Highly recommended: colored pencils, scissors and glue stick
5. WIRED headphones
6. Silent Reading novel at the student's Lexile level.

Donations of supplies for the good of the whole class (Clorox wipes, hand sanitizer, tissues, etc.) are certainly appreciated.

"Arizona law requires that public schools provide supplies required for academic success. This list represents optional, supplementary items, which you may supply, at your discretion. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school."

## GRADES

Deer Valley Unified School District will employ two grade scales to calculate grades using a **traditional averaging calculation** method. One grade scale will be used to report proficiency of the standards and the other will be used to calculate the overall grade. Students will receive marks for their overall performance in each course of study using the traditional letter grade scale (A-F). Assignments will be sorted into these three categories within the gradebook.

- Assessment (80%)
- Coursework (20%)
- Practice (0%)

All gradebook entries in the "Assessment" category will have at least one standard tagged and scored. Scores will be reported as 4 - Highly Proficient, 3 - Proficient, 2- Partially Proficient, 1 - Minimally Proficient, and NE (No Evidence/Missing).

**Assessment Clarification:** Students may be permitted to retake assessments only if all work has been completed for that unit. If they need to retake, they must submit any missing assignments for that unit. The student must schedule and retake this assessment within 10 days of the original score being handed back.

**Missing Work:** Any missing assignment will be put into the gradebook as 0% and missing. No evidence (NE) will be attached to the standards if applicable. At the end of the grading period, these missing assignment grades will be changed to 49%

**Late Work:** Students are able to submit late work without penalty if it meets the following parameters:

- Assignment is **not** due within the class period
- Assignment is **not** a timed activity (such as a Quick-Write Essay)
- Assignment is **not** a Long-Term assignment (over multiple weeks)
- Assignment is turned in within **5 days** of the end of an instructional unit.

**Progress Reports:** Parents and students can check student progress through Power Schools on the Internet as often as you would like. It is the expectation that grades will be posted within one week of turning in an assignment, however, writing assignments typically take two weeks to complete grading.

**Extra Credit** \* According to the Deer Valley Unified School District Promotion, Retention, Acceleration & Grading Handbook on page 30, there are no points given for extra credit assignments.

## **MTSS- B: BEHAVIOR** ***(The HMS School-Wide Prevention Program)***

Our progressive discipline is based on the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) program.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a proper manner at all times. Specific guidelines are outlined in the DVUSD Student Rights and Responsibility (SR & R) Handbook. The school rules apply to coming to school, going home from school, and at all school-sponsored events. General misbehavior is handled by the classroom teacher in the following manner:

### **PROGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS**

**Step 1:** Universal Interventions (Warning/Redirection)

**Step 2:** 1<sup>st</sup> Minor Incident Report with Interventions

**Step 3:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Minor Incident Report with Interventions and Parent Email

**Step 4:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Minor Incident Report with Interventions and Parent Phone Call

**Step 5:** Major Behavior Referral

**Consequences for inappropriate behavior will be given according to the DVUSD discipline guidelines as outlined in the Student Rights and Responsibility (SR & R) Handbook.**

**ABSENT WORK:** When a student is absent, they are responsible for checking Canvas. If a student is absent, they will have one day PLUS one more day to make up the assignments. It is the student's responsibility to turn in any work collected on a day they are absent. Please see me with any questions or extenuating circumstances due to absences.

**Cellphone Policy:** Unless otherwise stated, the expectation is that cellphones and headphones are turned off and stored in the numbered pockets on the wall.

1<sup>st</sup> infraction: Cellphone will be at teacher desk until the end of class.

2<sup>nd</sup> infraction: Cellphone will be sent to the office for student pick-up at the end of the day.

3<sup>rd</sup> infraction: Cellphone will be sent to the office for parent pick-up only.

Parent contact will be made after the second and third infractions.

### **Academic Integrity Statement**

To be college-, career-, and community-ready, students in the Deer Valley Unified School District are expected to demonstrate academic integrity. Academic integrity is all about being honest and fair in your schoolwork. It means doing work that is entirely your own and giving credit to others (including generative Artificial Intelligence tools) through proper citation when you use their ideas or words.

If you have questions about the guidelines for academic integrity, you should discuss them with your teacher.

### **Academic Dishonesty Statement**

Academic dishonesty refers to any action that compromises the integrity of academic work or evaluation processes. This includes but is not limited to:


- Copying or stealing another person's work or data (plagiarism);
- Allowing another person to copy one's work;
- Doing another person's classwork;
- Creating more than one copy of one's work for distribution;
- Providing another person with the answers on tests or quizzes;
- Noncompliance with teachers' test-taking procedures;
- Unauthorized copying or development of software; and
- Unauthorized use of generative Artificial Intelligence.

Consequences for instances of academic dishonesty range from a conference and loss of credit (student will be given another opportunity to show mastery of learning) up to a 5-day suspension and loss of credit.

## Artificial Intelligence

In the Deer Valley Unified School District, we are committed to providing our students with the best possible education while ensuring their safety, privacy, and well-being. As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance learning experiences, teachers may incorporate generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the classroom for students.

Students must adhere to the specific guidelines provided in the assignment details. If no guidance around the use of generative AI is provided, students should follow the “restrictive” level (see chart). Teachers should direct students to contact their teacher before submitting classwork if the student is unsure if the tool or website they are using is permitted on a specific assignment.

AI Use Traffic Light	Level	Description	Example Instruction
	<b>Restrictive</b> <b>No!</b>	AI tools are prohibited for the assignment, and all work must be the student's original creation.	"Do not use AI tools for this assignment. All content must be original, and any use of AI will be treated as plagiarism."
	<b>Moderate</b> <b>Whoa!</b>	Students can use teacher-approved AI tools from the district list for specific parts of their assignments, such as brainstorming or initial research, but the core content and conclusions should be original. Proper citation is required for any AI-generated content.	"You can employ AI tools to assist brainstorming or initial research, however, the main content, arguments, and conclusions should be your own."
	<b>Permissive</b> <b>Go!</b>	Students can utilize district-approved AI tools to assist in their assignments, such as generating ideas, proofreading, or organizing content. Proper citation is required for any AI-generated content.	"You may use AI tools as you see fit to enhance your assignment and demonstrate your understanding of the topic."

## Grade Scales

### 3-12 Grade Scale

Students in 3rd through 12th grades will receive marks for their proficiency toward the grade level standards using the following scale.

- 4 = Highly Proficient
- 3 = Proficient
- 2 = Partially Proficient
- 1 = Minimally Proficient

Students in 3rd through 12th grades will receive marks for their overall performance in each course of study using the following letter grade scale.

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F = 0-59%

Grades of “D” and above are passing marks. A course grade of “F” indicates that the student has failed the course.



## Syllabus Acknowledgement

I have read the syllabus for Mrs. Jennewine's English Language Arts class, which are located on her website and in Canvas, and I understand the expectations and procedures for the class. Please return this page by Aug. 9, 2024 or within 3 days of enrollment if after Aug. 9, 2024.

Student PRINTED Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

In the space below, please let me know the best way to contact you and any additional information you would like me to know about your child.