

7th grade English Language Arts
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Team 7-2
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Welcome to Hillcrest Middle School. I'm looking forward to getting to know your child. My goal is to work with students to build and enhance their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language skills through rigorous and engaging lessons. I believe the best way to achieve success is through high expectations, preparedness and parent/teacher communication. Please check Canvas for lesson plans, documents and important information. If at any time you have a question or concern, please contact me immediately. Student success is a team effort.

CURRICULUM: All district approved curriculum and teacher assignments are based on Arizona College and Career Ready Standards, which are accessible on the Internet at

<http://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/k-12standards/english-language-artsstandards/>

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. They are expected to have a folder and notebook to help organize any of their paper belongings. All notes will be organized on Canvas and it is the student's responsibility to access these notes when needed. 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 to show 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.

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.

Supplies: As a student, your job is to come to class prepared, have a positive attitude and growth mindset, and a few suggested supplies:

- District issued Chromebook - **must be charged daily before school** (remember to keep track of the charger). Although the majority of assignments will be completed and submitted online, some activities may require the following extras.
- Spiral notebook (70 page college ruled)
- Pencils with erasers
- Highlighters - at least two colors
- 1 two-pocket folder (for any loose papers)
- **Wired** headset for listening activities (some are available in the classroom) *No bluetooth
- 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.”

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%

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.

Absent Work: When a student is absent, he/she is responsible for checking their Canvas page for any work that was assigned for that day. If a student is absent, he/she will have one day PLUS one more day to make up the assignments. It is the student's responsibility to turn in any work that was due on a day they are absent. Please see me with any questions or extenuating circumstances due to absences. To maintain consistency and fairness, a long term assignment is defined as any task due 5 or more days after it is assigned. Any extenuating circumstances must be discussed with me BEFORE the due date. If a student is going to be absent the day a long term project is due, the student may turn in the assignment early.

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.

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
	Restrictive No!	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."
	Moderate Whoa!	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."
	Permissive Go!	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."

MTSS/RTI - B: RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION – BEHAVIOR: The Response To Intervention – Behavior process is a multi-tiered approach to providing support to all learners at increasing levels of interventions. Hillcrest will use a school wide system of support that includes proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate student behavior to create a positive school environment.

PROGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS: The following discipline procedures will be implemented consistently across campus:

- Step 1: Universal Interventions (Warning/Redirection)
- Step 2: Minor Incident Report with Interventions/discussion with student
- Step 3: Minor Incident Report with Interventions and Parent Email
- Step 4: Minor Incident Report with Interventions and Parent Phone Call
- Step 5: Major Behavior Referral to administration

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

As a rule, cell phones will not be allowed in class, however there may be an occasional exception. The steps for a cell phone infraction are aligned with the school-wide interventions:

- Teacher will ask for the phone to be put in the designated cell phone area assigned in the first week of school. This will be a DAILY reminder. This is considered the classwide 1st warning.
- In the first instance of the cell phone being used in class without teacher permission, the student will be asked to put the phone on the teacher's desk to be picked up at the end of the hour. This is considered a minor infraction.
- In the second instance of the cellphone being used in class without teacher permission, the student phone will be sent to the office where the phone may be picked up at 3:00 (parents will be emailed/called). This is considered a minor infraction.
- If it continues to be a problem, the parent/guardian will be asked to pick up the cell phone.

MOVIES: One of the 7th grade standards is to compare a written story with a filmed version. In order to teach this standard there are some movies that may be played throughout the year. The following movies have a PG rating that require a parent signature. By signing below, you are giving permission for your student to watch them. If you do not want your student to watch any of the selected movies, please make a note on the signature page.

- Inside Out
- Mulan
- The Outsiders
- Uglies
- I am the Cheese
- A Christmas Carol

Syllabus Acknowledgement

I have read the syllabus for Mrs. Myszkowski's English Language Arts class, and I understand the expectations and procedures for the class.

Please return this page August 5, 2024, or within 3 days of enrollment if after August 5th.

Student PRINTED Name _____ Period _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent PRINTED Name _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____