

7th Grade ELA/Advanced ELA

Instructor: Ms. Marissa Whitey

Room: 303

Email: Marissa.Whitey@dvusd.org

Voice Mail: (602) 467 - 6551

Welcome to a new and exciting school year!

I am looking forward to working with each of you. This year, you will encounter new challenges as you prepare for 8th grade and high school. I am looking forward to an amazing year!

Description of Course

The 7th grade ELA class is based on Arizona's Career and College Readiness Standards and the Deer Valley Unified School District Curriculum.

The curriculum includes the following domains:

Reading Standards for Literature and Informational Text, Writing, Speaking and Listening Standards

Materials:

College Ruled One Subject Spiral Notebook (for journal)

Loose leaf paper

Wired Headphones

Pens

Pencils

Highlighters

Tissues

Wipes

* Please let me know if you need assistance with any of these items. Arizona law requires public schools to provide supplies required for academic success. This list represents optional, supplementary items which you may supply at your discretion.

Determining Quarter Grade and Final Grade

Your student's official grade will be in Power Schools, NOT Canvas. Grades will be determined on the students' cumulative earned points and weighted by category.

Assessments: Summative tests, projects

Coursework (check for understanding): **MUST BE COMPLETED IN CLASS.** This includes Quizzes, independent practice, assignments, exit tickets, checks for understanding, and daily activities.

Practice (in the process of learning): Student work that is completed inside or outside of class, such as class work and homework.

Grades will be based on the following:

80% - Assessment

20% - Coursework

0% - Practice

The final (year-end grade) will be based on each of your grades from each of the 4 quarters and will follow the Deer Valley Unified School District's Promotion, Retention, Acceleration and Grading Handbook.

Late Work/Missing Work

All practice tasks are expected on their assigned due dates. If students are absent on a date that an assignment was due, the work is expected on the day of the student's return. If a student is on campus, but not in class, the work must still be handed in on time. If a student is absent, the student will have 1 day for each absence to complete work that was assigned while absent. Math concepts build upon each other and turning work in late could hinder students' learning of the concepts being taught. This could mean a lower level of understanding the 7th grade math standards and lower performance on assessments which will affect the overall grade.

Missing Work: An assignment is considered as missing work when it is not submitted by the due date.

Late Work: An assignment is considered late work when the assignment is not submitted by the due date that was established, but is submitted within the late work timeframe listed below:

- Assignment is not due within the class period
- assignment is not a long-term assignment
- Assignment is turned in within 5 school days after the end of the unit

Class work: An assignment expected to be submitted within the class period.

Homework: An assignment expected to be completed fully or partially at home independently.

Practice: (class work/homework) This category includes tasks, completed inside and outside of the classroom, that a student completes while in the process of learning specific skills.

Extra Credit: A student's grade is based on his/her performance of the 7th grade ELA standards and therefore no extra credit will be awarded.

Classroom Environment

In order to be successful in learning 7th grade ELA, students MUST engage in the learning activities. Engaging in your learning means: listening to the teacher and other students; completing tasks; asking questions of the teacher and of other students; presenting your thinking to other students and the class; and taking risks. Do not be afraid to make mistakes.

THAT'S HOW LEARNING HAPPENS!

Disruptions to the learning environment are not acceptable and consequences will follow the school discipline policy.

Absences

Students that are absent, are still responsible for the learning that occurs in class as well as any assignments that are missed. Information about missed learning assignments will be available in Canvas under Modules by week. If students need help understanding, they should sign up and attend FLASH. Students must make up assessments missed due to an absence within two weeks of the original assessment date. Students should be scheduling and attending FLASH class to make up missed assessments. If there are extenuating circumstances, please contact the teacher to make other arrangements.

*** Being absent does NOT exempt you from the learning or the assignments. ***

Plagiarism

All tasks should be completed by the student. Any practice and/or assessment that has been plagiarized (copied) from any source i.e. apps that give answers, other students, or the internet may receive consequences as noted in the district policies and the student may have to complete an alternative task to demonstrate his/her knowledge. This includes getting answers from others off of social media applications. Turning in work that is NOT your own IS plagiarism.

A.I.

After careful consideration and in alignment with the developmental needs of our students and the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), DVUSD has determined that the use of Large Language Models (LLMs), such as ChatGPT, are not

suitable for students in grades K-8 and will not be utilized or endorsed in academic contexts

Additional Help

Extra help is for students who are engaging in class learning activities but continue to struggle with specific ELA objectives. Make sure to always complete ALL assignments, even if they are difficult, and then ask for help in class and/or schedule and attend FLASH for additional help.

Assessments

Assessments must be completed the day they are given within the class period. The only exception is if the student misses the previous TWO days before the assessment. An absence the day before the assessment may not excuse the student from the assessment.

Reassessments

In order to ensure mastery of the standards for which a student did not demonstrate proficiency; students may be required to make corrections on assessments, complete missing assignments (not for credit but for learning), complete alternate learning tasks/assignments, and/or meet with the teacher to explain misunderstandings. Then, they may take an alternate assessment of the same learning targets.

A student MAY NOT retake an assessment without all coursework and practice tasks that lead up to that assessment, being completed.

Cell Phone/Electronic Device Classroom Policy

Cell phones and technology are a large part of our world today. Cell phones/electronic devices are expected to be turned OFF upon entering the campus and are expected to be placed in the students' backpack throughout the entirety of the day. This includes ear-buds, air-pods, and head-phones. If the cell phone policy is not followed, the following consequences may occur:

- 1) Verbal warning and documentation
- 2) Turned into office for student pick-up at the end of the school day

Deer Valley USD uses Canvas to support the district's technology initiative, designed specifically for K-12 teachers and students, Canvas is an easy-to-use, cloud-based learning management system (LMS) that connects all the digital tools and resources teachers use into one simple place. It integrates seamlessly with hundreds of apps, empowering teachers and students with countless tools to make teaching and learning

easier and more engaging. The Canvas grade book is connected to our student information system, PowerSchools. Parents can create a Canvas parent account to observe progress, view grades and sign up to receive teacher announcements and notifications. Observers can link their Canvas account to their student's account so they can see assignment due dates, announcements, and other course content. Observers can view the course content but cannot participate in the course. When your student logs into Canvas, he/she should go to "account", then "settings", then "pair with observer" and this will give you a code where you can link your parent account to your student's account. ELA will be using a program called StudySync that will be linked to canvas for class readings, coursework and assessments.

AI content

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 (NO USE OF AI). Teachers should direct students to contact their teacher before submitting class work if the student is unsure if the tool or website they are using is permitted on a specific assignment. Cheating of any kind will result in an office referral and an alternate assessment/coursework will be provided.

How can you be successful in ELA?

1. Be prepared for class
2. Complete all learning progressions on your own or according to directions
3. Pay attention in class
4. Study at home for all tests
5. Fully engage in class activities
6. ASK FOR HELP IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND

Remember, I cannot read your mind. If you do not ask questions, I assume that you understand the material.

The only stupid question is the one that goes unasked!