

Welcome to 7th Grade Language Arts Honors!

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Course Description

The seventh grade language arts curriculum is derived from the Utah Core Standards. To complement the standards, students will be working with Springboard, part of College Board's official Pre-AP program. Along with reading and writing strategies, students will learn grammar techniques using mentor/sample texts. The goal this year will be getting students to read more closely, think more deeply, and use those skills to respond to texts. This honors course will push students to dive deeper into all activities. Along with Springboard, students will participate in literature circles, group projects, writing activities, and more.

Unit Overviews

Unit	Texts	Embedded Assessments
Unit 1: The Choices We Make	Poetry, personal narratives, and myths	★ Revising a Personal Narrative About Choice ★ Creating an Illustrated Myth
Unit 2: What Influences my Choices?	Advertisements, magazines articles, print ads, film clips, news articles, speeches	★ Writing an Expository Essay and Participating in a Collaborative Discussion ★ Writing an Argument Essay
Unit 3: Our Choices and Life's Lessons	<u>Tangerine</u> by Edward Bloor, reference materials, film, nonfiction articles, news articles, online research materials	★ Writing a Literary Analysis Essay ★ Creating a Biographical Presentation
Unit 4: How We Choose to Act	Poetry, monologues, informational texts, drama, film clips	★ Creating and Presenting a Monologue ★ Performing a Shakespearean Dialogue

Reading Requirement

Students will be reading constantly all year. All students will be challenged to read a minimum of 40 books this year. Now, that may seem like a lofty goal; however, it's totally possible! Students will be required to read a small number of books from certain genres, the rest of the books will be read based on reader choice--book selection is made purely by the student. A certain amount of time will be dedicated to reading in class every day. There is also the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 20 minutes reading outside school every day.

Portfolio

Students will keep a variety of work in the class portfolio. The portfolio will include:

- ★ **Embedded Assessments** that comprise all steps in the writing process; student reflection on process and product; teacher assessment; and student reflection on assessment.
- ★ **Assignments** that demonstrate a variety of learning strategies, various stages of the writing process, and reading, writing, speaking and listening skills.

Reader's/Writer's Notebook

All students need to purchase a composition book. This book will house a reading log, independent writing, vocabulary words, and grammar links. This notebook will stay in the classroom; students will be using it everyday.

Class Expectations

Students are expected to behave in a polite and respectful manner. All school rules apply in this class.

- ★ Abide by school rules, including dress code and electronic policy guidelines.
- ★ Be Responsible
- ★ Be Trustworthy
- ★ Be Respectful
- ★ Be Safe

Students will partake in the class behavior plan known as CHAMPS. Students will learn correct behaviors for all activities and will receive encouragement, support, and possibly rewards. If students do not comply with the CHAMPS plan, parent or guardian will be contacted. If negative behavior continues, further disciplinary action will occur.

Citizenship and Grading

Schoolwide citizenship and grading policies will be observed in this class. Refer to the student handbook for those policies.

Late Work Policy

Work from excused absences will be accepted up to one week after the absence without penalty. After that time period, the assignment will be assessed a 5% penalty every day that it is late. Work missed due to an unexcused absence will be assessed a 5% penalty each day it is late and must be turned in before the unit assessment. The maximum penalty is 20%. After the two weeks, the assignment will no longer be accepted and the grade will remain a zero.

Make-Up Work Policy

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to retrieve your missing work. Check the make-up work binder, planner board, and consult your neighbor about what you missed. If you are still confused about something you may be missing, consult Mrs. Soj.

Honors Grade Policy

Students in honors classes are held to high standards. Students must maintain at least a "B-" or higher in their honors class to maintain eligibility. If a student's grade is below a "B-" at the end term, they will receive a probation letter stating the student will then have until the end of next term to raise his/her grade. If the grade is still below the requirement, the student will be moved into a regular education class.

Please sign on the appropriate line and place this paper in your language arts tab.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Class Period: _____