

2013-2014 Syllabus
Ms. Melanie Pauker
7th Grade English Language Arts
Crittenden Middle School

Course Description: Seventh grade English Language Arts is the study of skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will develop comprehension and communication skills. Students will develop reading strategies that they will be required to apply during independent and classroom reading. Students will use the writing process to communicate effectively and efficiently. Students will enhance their vocabulary and their understanding of grammar in order to further themselves as a reader and a writer.

Class Rules:

- Rule 1: Follow directions quickly.
- Rule 2: Raise your hand for permission to speak.
- Rule 3: Raise your hand for permission to leave your seat.
- Rule 4: Make smart choices.
- Rule 5: Keep your dear teacher happy!

Required Materials:

- Interactive Student Notebook
- Pencil
- Pen (ONLY blue and black ink accepted)
- Lined filler paper
- REV Flashcards
- Independent Novel

Interactive Student Notebook (ISN): Students will be creating and using an Interactive Student Notebook throughout this school year. Their notebook is to be used strictly only for this class. Students are not to tear out or use any of the paper from this notebook for anything other than this class and as instructed by the teacher. Each notebook must match the teacher's notebook. If a student loses their notebook, they will be expected to recreate the notebook in its entirety, no matter the circumstances. For further guidelines, please see the ISN grading rubric.

Classroom Economy: Each student will receive 15 dollars in cougar cash at the start of every marking period. Students can earn cougar cash by completing assignments, behaving appropriately, and actively participating in class. Every Monday is "payday," which is when students will receive the money they have earned that past week. Students who break the rules or fail to complete work will be fined, and they must pay back the specified amount to the teacher. Students can use their cougar cash on school events or at Ms. Pauker's Classroom Café.

Jigsaw Incentive: As a class, students will work together to earn jigsaw puzzle pieces. All three classes are working towards completing the same puzzle. When all puzzle pieces are collected and put together, students in all three of my classes will earn a game day.

Brownie Points & Extra Credit: Students can earn extra credit by completing "Brownie Point" assignments. These assignments are not mandatory. They provide students with extra practice of necessary skills. Students can earn up to 100 extra credit points in the Test/Project category of the gradebook per marking period by completing 10 Brownie Point assignments. These assignments will be graded based on accuracy. Therefore, a student will not earn full credit simply by turning in the assignment but by doing it correctly. Upon completing their first Brownie Point assignment of the week, students will earn a Brownie Board Piece towards their class total. A student can only earn 1 Brownie Board Piece per week. If 12 Brownie Board Pieces are earned for a class, that class will receive brownies at the end of the week. At the end of the week, each board is cleared.

Reading with a Purpose Project: This year our class is working towards raising money for Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, a non-profit organization that aims to find a cure for and aid families affected by childhood cancer. We will be doing this in many ways but primarily through reading. Throughout the school year, students are expected to be reading independently for a minimum of 20 minutes a day. If students are reading a novel that is level appropriate for them, this would result in reading roughly 20 pages daily. The teacher will complete a weekly page check. Upon finishing a novel, students must complete an "Exit Interview" in order for that book to count towards their total book tally. Each student is being assigned at least one sponsor, who is willing to pay \$1 to Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for every book they complete.

Tardy Policy: Students who are late with a pass should enter the room quietly, place their pass on the teacher's desk, observe what everyone is doing, and get straight to work. Students who are late without a pass will receive lunch detention. Students who receives 3 tardy lunch detentions will receive a letter home. Students who receive 4 tardy lunch detentions will receive a letter and/or phone call home. Students who receive 5 tardy lunch detentions will have a mandatory parent-teacher conference.

Absence Policy: Students who are absent are responsible for getting all missed materials. In other words, they must ask their class buddy for any missed notes and obtain any missed assignments from the "While You Were Out" crate. These assignments must be made up within the same number of days the student was absent. If a student was absent when a project was due or on a test/quiz day, the student will be expected to turn in the project or take the test/quiz on the day they return.

Homework Policy: Students are to complete all assigned homework and projects before entering the classroom on its due date. The teacher can check homework by completing a 3-2-1 quick check or a collection check. The teacher may also opt not to check homework. However, if a student has a missing or incomplete assignment, they must complete a form and return it to Ms. Pauker. The student will have 1 day to complete the missing or incomplete assignment for partial credit. After that point, the student will receive a zero. For a missing or incomplete project, students must turn in the completed assignment before the end of the marking period. The highest grade a late project can receive if turned in a day late is a 91%; if 2 days late is an 82%; if 3 days late is a 73%; and if 4 days late is a 64%. For the remainder of the marking period, the highest grade the late project can receive is a 64%.

Test/Quiz Re-take Policy: Students will only be permitted to re-take any test or quiz once. Students must fill out the re-take form and explain how they plan to prepare themselves for the re-take test or quiz. Upon receiving the form, Ms. Pauker will assign and date and time when the student is permitted to re-take the test or quiz. The teacher will keep the higher score in the gradebook.

Restroom Policy: Students will receive 3 bathroom pass coupons at the beginning of each marking period. Students can buy more bathroom passes from the Classroom Café throughout the school year using the cougar cash they have earned. Students are not to use the restroom during the first and last 10 minutes of class. The teacher will notify students when it is an appropriate time to use the restroom.

Library Visitations: Students will visit the library as a class once a month. Students will also be able to visit the library on a rotating schedule between assigned groups during silent sustained reading time. There is also a classroom library that students can visit before homeroom and during class if they have completed all assigned work. Keep in mind that going to the library is a privilege that can be taken away.

Grading Scale:

- ❖ A = 92% - 100%
- ❖ B = 83% - 91%
- ❖ C = 74% - 82%
- ❖ D = 65% - 73%
- ❖ F = 64% or below
- ❖ I = Incomplete Assignments

Grading Policy:

- Homework: 10%
- Classwork: 30%
- Quizzes: 25%
- Test & Projects: 35%

Extra Help: Ms. Pauker offers extra help after school every first and third Tuesday of the month. In order for students to stay, they must notify Ms. Pauker when and why they wish to stay. Students will be given a permission slip that they must fill out and have their parent or guardian sign. If a student does not have a completed permission slip, that student will not be permitted to stay.

Contact Information:

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