7th Grade English Language Arts (ELA)

Ms. Harms & Ms. Gimmler   Email   lauraharms@u-46.org   kellygimmler@u-46.org
1-847-888-5250   **(preferred method of communication)**

Course Welcome/Intro
Welcome to 7th Grade English Language Arts. I am glad you are here. I am available for extra help before or after school, by appointment, and via email evenings or weekends.

Required Course Materials
Students are required to bring to every class period:
- fully-charged Chromebook
- Case-It Binder with pens, pencils, highlighters, loose-leaf paper
- an independent reading novel

If a student does not bring his or her Chromebook, the student is expected to continue participating in class and complete all class work.

Classroom Expectations
Cell phones are not used in class. Cell phones should be kept in case it binder, locker, or at home.

Larsen Middle School Expectation:
- Live Respectfully
- Make Responsible Choices
- Safety First

Reassessment Policy

Students may reassess prior to the next Summative Assessment after completing a Request for Reassessment Form and scheduling the time for reassessment outside of class time. **Please Note:** The reassessment score will always replace the original assessment score, whether higher or lower.

Other Classroom Policies
Grade Calculations:
- Levels of mastery within a strand for English Language Arts will be calculated using Mean (average).
- Reassessment scores will automatically replace the previous score, even if it is lower.
- Only Summative Assessment scores will count toward an overall grade calculation
- Practice work is expected to be completed, and may be recorded in Infinite Campus as feedback and as a communication tool for students and parents. Graded practice scores will be entered into Infinite Campus as a "+" (understand it!) "/" (almost have it!) or "-" (don't have it yet!). Any assignments may also be marked in Infinite Campus as "M" (missing), "I" (incomplete), "T" (turned in), or "X" (exempt).

Larsen Middle School • 2019-2020
Parent Signature Form

7th Grade English Language Arts
Ms. Harms & Ms. Gimmler

Please share with your parents or guardians and have this signed and returned by _____.

Students:

I, _____, have read and understand the syllabus and agree to bring my best attitude and effort to this class every day.

Parents/Guardians:

I, _____, have read and understand the syllabus.

Home phone:_____

Work phone:_____

Cell phone:_____

E-mail address:_____

Parent/Guardian preferred language: _____

How would you prefer to be contacted? (You may select multiple methods)

_____Home _____Work _____Cell _____Email

1. What is the best time of day to reach you by phone?

2. Is there anything I should know about your student's learning process?

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to help students develop proficiency and confidence as readers, writers, speakers, and listeners. Emphasis is placed on the development of higher order thinking skills, grammar (usage, mechanics), increasing students' reading and writing stamina and exposure to and appreciation of a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts through the theme of choices. Students will be required to complete multiple pieces of academic writing as well as a variety of presentations in a variety of formats. Required academic writing includes but is not limited to, the structure and development of argumentative, analytical, and research writing using the writing workshop approach. Attention will also be given to the integration of technology and multimedia aspects of digital literacy necessary for college and career readiness. Activities for this course will include reading, writing, small group work, individual and group projects, common and local assessments (both formative and summative), research, defining and effectively using academic vocabulary and oral presentations.

7th Grade English Language Arts (ELA) will be utilizing standards-based learning and assessment (SBLA) which measures students' proficiency on a set of standards for the grade/content level. The Standards Based Learning and Assessment approach:
- Indicates what students know and are able to do
- Shows student progress toward meeting a standard
- Communicates expectations ahead of time
- Is based on complex tasks, as opposed to memorization
- Focuses on recent evidence of learning.

COURSE REPORTING STRAND
- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking & Listening
- Language

DISTRICT RESOURCES
District Website: https://www.u-46.org/Page/10320

Chromebook: Charged Chromebooks are to be brought to class on a daily basis. If a student does not bring his or her Chromebook, the student is expected to continue participating in class and complete all class work.

SPECIFIC COURSE ACTIVITIES
In order to demonstrate proficiency in course standards, students will need to:
1. Participate in class activities (take notes, contribute to group work, complete in-class tasks, ask questions, etc.)
2. Complete assigned homework as needed in order to practice and improve learning.
3. Use formative assessments to track learning progress and identify strengths and weaknesses with the course content and complete outside practice in activities when necessary.
4. Complete all assessments (formative and summative).
5. Create and follow through on a plan of improvement, when demonstrating little to no understanding of learning targets.

STUDENT EVIDENCE/ASSESSMENTS
Assessments based on SBLA demonstrate that students have the knowledge and skills necessary for success in the next grade, next course, and finally for college and career. Scores do not compare one student to another. They measure how students are doing on the grade/course level standards.

Evidence of learning (summative) and evidence for learning (formative) include any artifact that indicates whether or not a student has achieved proficiency in a standard. This can occur through in-class work, formative events, mid-unit, end of the unit, and end of course assessments.

PROFICIENCY SCALE

Standards-based rubrics will be used to determine students' level of proficiency, using the 0-4 scale based on set criteria. Rubrics will be distributed at the beginning of a unit of study and referred to throughout the learning progression for the purpose of providing feedback.   Rubrics for the course can be found on the literacy website.

Score	What does it mean?
4 = Mastery	Demonstrates the ability to apply extended thinking about the skills and knowledge of the standard
3 = Proficient	Demonstrates skills and knowledge of the standard
2 = Basic	Demonstrates a basic understanding of the skills and knowledge of the standard
1 = Below Basic	Demonstrates a below basic understanding of the standard; may demonstrate gaps in skills and knowledge
0 = No Evidence	There is no, or insufficient, evidence of learning to assess the standard at this time
NE = Not Evaluated	This standard has not been evaluated at this time

MAKEUP POLICY

Summative assessments that are missed will be marked "missing" or "not evaluated" in the grade book until completed. Students have five school attendance days to complete a missed assessment. Incomplete assessments result in a lack of evidence of student's understanding and may cause a student to fail.

REASSESSMENTS

Students will have multiple assessment opportunities to demonstrate higher levels of achievement on any assessment that is used to determine an overall proficiency and grade. The opportunities may be initiated by the instructor or the student, but always at the discretion of the teacher.   Reassessments must be completed within a reasonable time of the original assessment being returned to the student.

After a reassessment, the most current grade will show in Infinite Campus. For example, if a student starts with a 2 and then earns a 1 on a reassessment, the 1 will be the score reflected within Infinite Campus and in grade determination. If the student instead earns a 3, the 3 will be the score reflected.

LATE WORK

Any late work that a student may have must be turned in within the reassessment window. Once the reassessment window is closed, the assessment will no longer be accepted.

EXTRA CREDIT AND BONUS POINTS

To ensure that grades reflect progress toward and achievement of the standards, giving extra credit points or bonus points will not occur in this class.   The vision of U-46 is that behavior/participation will be reported separately from academic achievement and is not a component of a student's academic grade.

GRADE DETERMINATION

Infinite Campus is used to communicate students' proficiency in each assessment, overall reporting strand, and the *predicted* semester letter grade. The semester letter grade will be informed by the student's learning proficiencies throughout the semester. Mastery of standards leads to mastery of the reporting strands, which in turn leads to mastery of the course.

- Standards-based rubrics will be used to determine students' level of proficiency, using the 0-4 scale, on individual standards and assessments.
- A *predicted in-progress* letter grade for each reporting strand will be calculated within Infinite Campus by averaging each of the proficiency scores in the strand.
- A *predicted semester* letter grade for the course will be calculated within Infinite Campus by averaging each of the reporting strands.
- The equal incremental grading scale to determine a letter grade is below.

Equal Incremental Grading	
A	3.21 - 4.00
B	2.41 - 3.20
C	1.61 - 2.40
D	.81 - 1.60
E	.80 - Below

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/PLAGIARISM POLICY

Academic dishonesty refers to cheating, copying, plagiarizing, or otherwise representing the work of others as one's own through verbal, written, graphic, electronic, or other means. Students determined to have been academically dishonest are subject to disciplinary action. Consequences will depend on the severity of the offense, the number of offenses, the impact on other students and teacher, and/or the curriculum. Academic dishonesty undermines the learning process and will not be condoned.