

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS CLASS GUIDELINES

Keep this in the front of your binder!

BASICS

1. Be prepared for class. This means bring all materials daily, have assigned work completed, and come in ready to work. You will **always** need blue, black, and red pens; highlighters, and filler paper!
2. Participate in class discussion and practice work. Ask questions and provide meaningful opinions and ideas. Your **daily participation** earns you extra credit; generally the only extra credit opportunity offered in my class.
3. Seek help immediately if you are having any problems with the material.
4. Be respectful of everyone in our class; listen to others, raise your hand to speak, do not interrupt.

ASSIGNMENTS

Turn everything in on time!! Missing assignments are the number one reason for poor or failing grades. One day late = 20% penalty / Two days late = 25% penalty / Three days late = 50% penalty. **NO CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN AFTER THREE DAYS.** Zeros are very difficult to overcome – don't put yourself in that situation. Absences are not part of "missing assignments" unless an inordinate amount of time has passed. A word about plagiarism: don't. You will receive a zero for the assignment, and will not be permitted a "redo." Additional punishment may also apply – refer to the student handbook.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Take credit for your successes, learn from your mistakes, and above all, **own your actions and behavior.** If you have a problem, try to solve it in a respectful way; I am more than willing to assist you in this if you need help in doing so. As the junior high, you are the example for the rest of the school, for better or for worse – make sure it's for better!

SPELLING (EIGHTH GRADE)

Spelling homework will be given each week there is a spelling test. This is usually every week, but not always. It will depend upon what we're working on in other areas and if we have weeks with days off or missed classes. You will be responsible for knowing definitions, as well as correct spelling. Spelling books will be collected at mid-term and at end of each quarter for homework grades. **Starting this year, spelling will be averaged in as part of the overall English grade, not a separate grade on the report card.**

CHROMEBOOKS

You may not take notes in class on your chromebooks. Class notes must be written on filler and kept in your binder; if you wish to rewrite them on your own time into google docs, they must be printed out and put into the binder. You may not access notes from the chromebooks during class. It is your responsibility to charge your chromebook at home. You will not be permitted to charge yours at school if you run out of battery power.

READING, WRITING, GRAMMAR, MECHANICS

We will be studying novels, some plays, and some short stories. We will be reading and applying our higher level thinking skills to analyze and discover meaning in the material. Writing will take place in a variety of formal and informal ways throughout the year, with one specific writing workshop class each week. **Grammar and mechanics are almost completely review skills; if you are struggling with basics, then independent remediation is needed – see me for practice and/or tutoring recommendations.**

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I have read and understand the 2017-18 L.A. guidelines

Student signature.....Date.....

Parent signature.....Date.....