

City of Hialeah Educational Academy

2025-2026

Mrs. Guerra

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Syllabus

Introduction:

Welcome! Get ready for a great year. In this class, your abilities in writing and critical thinking will grow significantly. I really hope you are just as excited as I am to begin our journey together. Have fun, stay on task, and I look forward to working with each of you.

Course Description:

English Language Arts is designed to aid students in mastering the Florida Reading Standards for Literature and Informational Texts. Students will be expected to read, understand, and analyze different genres of literature and non-fiction texts for key ideas, details, craft, and structure. Students will also be expected to write and communicate their ideas about these topics clearly and effectively, employing a variety of techniques.

Course Goals:

The goals of this class are to ensure that students obtain a mastery over grade-level writing and comprehension skills. Using a diverse set of reading materials and writing exercises, students will improve their abilities to interpret literature and non-fiction text through a variety of analytic means (theme, symbolism, voice, historical background, character development, etc.).

Expected Student Learning Outcomes:

Students should be able to:

- analyze and interpret samples of good writing, identifying and explaining an author's use of rhetorical strategies and techniques;
- determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details;
- describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution;
- cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text;
- determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings;
- analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone;
- compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres (e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories) in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics;
- trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not;
- read and comprehend literary nonfiction in the grades 6–8 text complexity band proficiently;
- apply effective strategies and techniques in their own writing.
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Required Supplies:

- Pens (black and blue only)
- Pencils
- Highlighters

- Index cards
- Small pocket English dictionary and thesaurus
- 1 Folder with pocket (filled with loose-leaf paper)
- Composition notebook
- USB
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ATTENTION: It is **YOUR** responsibility to keep up with any work that is assigned in class and online. If there are ever any issues with your ability to login to your online work, you need to notify me immediately. However, it is still your responsibility to make up any assignments missed.

Grading Scale:

Major Assessments/Tests: 30%

Mini-Assessments/Quizzes: 25%

Class Learning: 20%

Home Learning: 5%

Projects/Cooperative Presentations/Essays: 20%

90 - 100 = A	4 pts. 3.5 - 4.0 average
80 - 89 = B	3 pts. 2.5 - 3.49 average
70 - 79 = C	2 pts. 1.5 - 2.49 average
60 - 69 = D	1 pt. 1.0 - 1.49 average
Below 59 = F	0 pts. Below 1.0 average

CLASSROOM RULES

Honor: We will always...

- tell the truth.
- do the right thing.
- be team players.
- take responsibility for our actions.
- be hard working.
- be proactive, not reactive.

Respect: We will always ...

- respect the rights of others to learn.
- show respect for ourselves, our school, and others.
- conduct ourselves in a courteous and appropriate manner.
- be compassionate towards all members of the Bulldog Nation.
- Be considerate of others' opinions.

Loyalty: We will always ...

- care for others to build trust.
- help others reach their potential.
- steer clear of gossip.
- strive to be consistent and reliable.
- stay true to our words.
- be humble.

Classroom Expectations:

These expectations form the basic structure of the class. I expect every single student to adhere to these rules and ensure that they are not only at their best behavior but that they are the best versions of themselves in my class. There is no such thing as a bad student, just bad choices.

1. Bring all needed materials to class daily.
2. Be ready to work on time.
3. Make sure you are in school uniform
4. Listen, stay seated, and follow directions.
5. Respect other people's feeling and thoughts.
6. Please keep your social conversations out of the classroom.

Tardy Policy:

Students must be in class and ready to work on time. This is YOUR responsibility. Being punctual is of the highest priority, and I expect that you make it your priority as well.

Assignment/Make-Up Policy:

I will ensure that students have enough time to complete assignments. Student must turn in their assignments complete and per the given instructions on time. I understand that there are things that cannot be avoided (getting sick, an emergency in the family, doctor appointments). It is up to the student to ensure that the office and I am informed of the reason for your absence. If the absence is excused, it is up to you to get and complete any work missed.

The following lists the policies for turning in late/missing work.

- Absence:
 - In the case of an absence, the student is required to provide proof that their absence has been excused by the school via parent note, doctor's note, etc.
 - After I receive verification, the student has as many days as they were out to complete the assignment. (For example, if the student was absent for two days, they have two days, including the day they returned, to complete missing assignments).
 - This does not excuse the student from assignments received once they've returned.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is copying from your classmates or from another source (internet, novel, news article, etc.) and passing it off as your own. This is **absolutely unacceptable** and will not be tolerated. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will receive an F for the assignment, a referral, and a phone call will be made home.

Student Contract

I, _____, agree to meet all of the expectations as stated in my syllabus, and I agree that if I violate the rules, I will accept the consequences of my actions.

I will work together with my teacher to make sure that I complete all assignments that I am given. I understand that if I have questions about an assignment, I am to ask to make sure I know what to do. This is my responsibility as a student, and I will take that responsibility seriously.

I will perform all of my work to the upmost of my ability. I understand that I am accountable for my work and that all work is turned in on time. I understand that failure to turn in assignments and not having a legitimate excuse will result in a Z (incomplete) in the grade book, and I am not eligible to make up that work.

I understand that it is my job to be in class on time. I know that being late is not tolerated, and if I am tardy, I must have a legitimate excuse for being late.

I will treat each of my classmates with absolute respect and dignity. I will not bully my peers, and I will prevent any sort of bullying activity that occurs within my class and my school. I will report any acts of bullying to a teacher and/or adult as soon as possible.

I have read the course requirements, rules, standards and expectations for my class. I understand that academic integrity is expected. By signing this contract, I agree to all the aforementioned information.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Emergency Contact:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____