

Middle School
Language Arts - Syllabus



2024-2025

The City of Hialeah Educational Academy

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INTRODUCTION

This is the seventh grade Language Arts class! I am pleased and honored to be your teacher for this course. I look forward to an exciting year together. In this class, we will focus on refining the important skills and knowledge areas within the Language Arts curriculum that are needed in order to prepare you for your current and future studies in this and other classes. We will learn how to read and analyze different texts, how to respond to them orally and in writing. In order to maximize your learning this year, you will need to exemplify cooperation, respect, and responsibility in the classroom at all times. Everyone is an important part of the class; and everyone has to do their part to bring about learning and growth. I look forward not only to helping you grow as a student, but as an individual as well. With our class in perfect harmony, you will, go above, and beyond. Welcome!

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The focus of the seventh grade Language Arts course is on reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language skills. Throughout the course of the school year, we will engage in various cooperative/collaborative and independent learning activities both in and out of the classroom. Students will complete and present various projects throughout the year and have many opportunities to demonstrate mastery of their learning through them.

Students will complete various writing models within the course. These writing types include personal narratives, illustrated myths, expository essays, argumentative essays, literary analysis, rhetorical analysis, poetic analysis, biographical research, monologue, and Shakespearean dialogue. Students are required to support claims with reasons and evidence. Spelling, grammar, and vocabulary will also be an important part of this class. Students are expected to accurately use grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression. The ELA BEST Standards are embedded within the course.

COURSE GOALS

- To identify and analyze the craft and structure of various written works and texts, literary elements, and the relationship among setting, characterization, conflict and plot.
- To identify and infer the main idea, details, theme, and author's purpose, style, and tone within various written works and texts.
- To analyze and write narrative, rhetorical, comparison and contrast, expository, and argumentative essays.
- To write literary and poetic analyses with commentary.
- To write and effectively support a thesis statement accordingly
- To support claims with reasons and evidence.
- To identify and effectively use Ethos, Pathos, Logos, Kairos, and other rhetorical devices
- To research literature, drama, and other literary forms and authors from different time periods.
- To apply a variety of reading strategies to fiction and nonfiction texts in order to infer meaning, draw conclusions, and demonstrate reading comprehension in various ways.
- To engage effectively in a variety of collaborative discussions.
- To transfer knowledge from discussions into meaningful reflective writing and other forms of academic expression that demonstrate mastery of knowledge and learning objectives.
- To understand and accurately apply the various parts of speech, conventions and mechanics, and use simple, compound, and complex sentence structures.

REQUIRED TEXTS

-HMH Intro to Literature text, selected resources

**Additional reading material may be required for instruction purposes. More information on the titles will be given in class.*

REQUIRED SUPPLY

- (1) box of markers/colored pencils
- (12) #2 Mechanical pencils
- (1) box of black or blue pens (erasable)
- (5) red pens (erasable)
- (1) glue stick
- (1) notebook
- (1) 3-prong plastic pocket folder (duo-tang)
- (6) packages of college ruled paper to start the year
- (1) eraser
- (1) pair of scissors (no sharp points)
- (4) highlighters
- (1) pocket thesaurus

- (1) school purchased agenda or your own planner
- (1) headphones (**with auxiliary cable**)

(1) umbrella/poncho/rain gear

WEBSITES

www.hialeaheduacademy.com

This website will be utilized as a means for communication. Assignments, home learning, etc. will be found on the site for both students and parents. To access:

- Click on> Faculty/staff
 - >Faculty email
 - >Mesa, Jennilay

TYPE OF ASSIGNMENTS

- Reading (novels, short stories, essays, poems, myths, dramatic plays)
- Essays (narrative, argumentative, expository, rhetorical, comparison/contrast, literary)
- Journals
- Grammar
- Vocabulary
- Collaborative discussions/Integration of knowledge
- Group Assignments/Critical thinking
- Assessments/Projects/Presentations

STUDENT EVALUATION

Grades are based on the Miami-Dade County Grading Scale.

GRADING SCALE:

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

Students are evaluated based on the following criteria below:

- Test: 30%
- Quizzes: 20%
- Classwork: 20%
- Home learning: 5%
- Presentations/Projects/Essays: 25%

CLASSROOM RULES

1. Be respectful and listen to learn at all times
 2. Honor your parents, families, culture, and heritage at all times with your behavior
 3. Be prepared to learn and demonstrate your growth at all times
- **Adhere to the classroom procedures at all times; when in doubt, ask.**

In the event that the rules are broken, the student will be tracked in the HERO tracking system. The system works on a daily/weekly basis in this and all classes. The first step is a warning, the second is parent communication, the third will result in a detention, and the fourth a parent conference and referral to administration. This will affect the conduct grade in class.

PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONICS

As per state law, all students are now required to place their phones in a designated location. In this class, phone pockets will be found when entering the classroom. Students will be assigned a number, and phones will be placed in your correct location when entering the class. Other electronic devices, such as Bluetooth headsets and smart watches, should remain in your bookbag or be used as watches only, unless directed by a teacher. Any student caught using these devices outside of designated times the device will be confiscated, documented in HERO, and sent to the front office. Students may not collect them until after school.

ATTENDANCE/ TARDY POLICY

Attendance plays a key role in your learning. It is your responsibility to be present and, in your seat, when the bell rings. Given that we only have a certain amount of time together, punctuality is a must. If you are tardy, you must have a written excuse on school official paper from the teacher who detained you or the administration. Tardiness will also be tracked in the HERO tracking system. Listed below are the consequences for unexcused tardiness:

- 1st tardy: Verbal warning.
- 2nd tardy: Call home.
- 3rd tardy: Detention.
- 4th tardy: Referred to administration, referral.
- 5+ tardy, administrative actions.

ASSIGNMENT/ MAKE UP POLICY

Adequate time is given to complete assignments. Therefore, late work will NOT be accepted, unless authorized by the teacher. It is the student's responsibility to manage their time effectively in order to meet the deadlines. A letter grade of Z will be given if the assignment is not turned in on the date of collection.

In the event that the student is unable to complete an assignment due to an absence, it is the student's responsibility to collect and complete any assignment that was missed. A grade will ONLY be received if the absence is EXCUSED. The student will have as many days as they were out to complete the assignment (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 when returned.

HOMELEARNING POLICY

Home learning will mostly be to study, take and revise notes, answer exit slip questions, enhance vocabulary, practice class concepts, and further research topics. The home learning is driven by the instruction that takes place in the classroom. Therefore, do not expect home learning to be in the form of specific assignments on

a daily basis that must be turned in the next day; although they may take on this form on occasion. Parent communication will be made for missing assignments.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is completely UNACCEPTABLE. The consequence for a student caught in the act of plagiarism is a letter grade of Z. Plagiarism is not taken lightly, so keep in mind that administration will be notified as well as the parent. Cheating is a derivative of plagiarism; the same consequences will apply to anything of that nature. Student work that is submitted to the teacher must reflect independent, original student thought and be an independent, original student composition and compilation; not copied from the internet, another student, or any other source.

REMOTE LIVE INSTRUCTION

Adhere to the respective guidelines for our online platform as discussed by administration and in keeping with school policies. Make sure that you are in proper attendance, attire, and in compliance of all rules and procedures. Our online platform is our classroom; and therefore, we must treat it with the same amount of respect. This will be in the event of quarantine or as deemed by administration.

COMMUNICATION

Allow between 24-48 hours for updates in gradebook and follow up to email communication. Google classroom is NOT the gradebook. Any “grade”, percentage, or note on google classroom is intended for feedback purposes only. The best way to communicate with me about your concerns is via **email**; not during class time, and not via text or any other messaging platform. In your email, please include your full name, student ID number, class period, and the nature of your question or your concern. Class time is for instruction and learning.

Please sign and submit the student/parent contract on the next page

STUDENT/PARENT CONTRACT

PRINT, SIGN, AND RETURN THIS PORTION OF THE SYLLABUS. Upload/submit to google classroom.

STUDENT SECTION:

I have read and understood the student contract for Ms. Mesa's Language Arts class. I have thoroughly reviewed the rules and procedures with my parent(s)/guardian(s.) I understand and agree to all terms.

Student Signature	Please Print Name	Date	Period

PARENT SECTION:

I (we) the parent(s)/guardian(s) have gone over this contract with my (our) child and I (we) understand and agree on all the terms.

Parent/Guardian Signature	Please Print Name	Date

Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

Phone Number(s): _____

E-mail Address: _____

Comments:

