



Misty Cheslock  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts and Literature  
[mcheslock@ems-isd.net](mailto:mcheslock@ems-isd.net)

**Conference Period:** 8:20 a.m. – 9:07 a.m.

**Tutoring Opportunities:** Tuesday 7:45 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.; Wednesday 3:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

**Class Materials:**

- 2 Composition OR spiral notebook (1 for ELA; 1 for Literature)
- Pen/pencil
- Highlighters
- Pocket folder with prongs
- Notebook paper
- optional: sticky notes, markers, colored pencils
- Access to Canvas and Office365 tools is available to students through our [Single Sign-on Portal \(SSO\)](#). Students receive their SSO login during enrollment.

**Course Description:** A central goal of the English language arts and reading (ELAR) department is to establish and support a consistent reading habit in the busy lives of students, which is a shared partnership between teachers, students, and parents. In ELAR classes, students will engage in both required and self-selected texts. Through both assigned and independent reading, students will continue to develop their confidence, build vocabulary, increase reading fluency and stamina, and improve their writing skills.

**Course Goals:** Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

- Make complex inferences about a variety of texts and support those inferences with relevant textual evidence
- Determine how authors use literary techniques and figurative language to contribute to meaning
- Write skillfully crafted compositions with a sustained focus, substantial development, and an organized structure that clearly shows the relationship among ideas
- Revise and edit drafts to improve the overall effectiveness of writing conventions and the development and ideas

**Student Evaluation:** The grading system for this course is as follows:

- Grade averaged 60% Major—40% Minor
- Major grades – tests (including District Common Assessments, projects, final essays, research papers, presentations); minimum three per six weeks
- Minor grades – quizzes, daily assignments, journals; minimum four per six weeks
- Each six weeks will count as 1/3 of the semester grade
- A letter system (S,N,U) is used to report a student’s conduct based on proper/responsive conduct and citizenship
- Per Board Policy EIA (LOCAL), “The District shall permit a student who meets the criteria detailed in the grading guidelines a reasonable opportunity to redo an assignment or retake a test for which the student received a **failing** grade. This policy applies only to initial identified major grades and does not apply to daily assignments and quizzes. Upon reteach and retest, the new test, project, etc. recorded will be a high score of 70%.”
- Official grades will be in Skyward only and can be accessed by student and parent through Family Access.

**Assignments, exams, expectations outside of the classroom:**

- Homework is assigned when assignments are not completed during independent work time.
- Assignments not submitted on time will be marked in Skyward as “Missing” and a grade of 0 will be entered. (Assignment grades that are blank or contain an asterisk means the grade hasn’t been entered yet.) Students

can turn in work up to 4 school days after the day it is due. For example, if an assignment is due Monday, students have until Friday to turn in the assignment. After the fourth day, it will remain a 0.

- Students will be reading books of their choice in and out of class and will discuss and write about their reading.
- District Common Assessments—STAAR formatted assessments include at least one reading passage and one revising or editing passage with a variety of question types; these can only be taken in class or tutorials if missed.
- Pre-write and Post-write Flash Drafts—timed; completed only in class or tutorials if missed
- Students will develop essays by completing the writing process.

#### **Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-Up Work:**

- Students are allowed an equal amount of days absent plus one day to complete all missed assignments.
- When students return, they can pick up any handouts from the missing assignments folder in the classroom. Assignments will also be posted to Canvas.
- Assignments and due dates will be posted in the classroom.
- Students can make up tests occasionally during class time, during tutorials, and during Advisory.
- Students who are tardy need to enter the classroom without interruption. There will be a sign-in sheet for those students who are tardy. Repeated tardies have penalties.
- Students can ask questions about attendance, tardies, and make up work before or after class, before or after school, and during tutorials.

#### **Classroom Expectations:**

Students should follow procedures upon entry into the classroom. Beginning Activities will be on the board and students should be seated and working when the bell rings. It is important that students come to class prepared with materials, as well as a positive and productive mindset. If a student is unprepared, the student should speak with the teacher immediately so that a solution can be reached. During class, students will be expected to work with others without causing disruptions or distractions as well as independently during work time to learn and reinforce skills and concepts. Students are also expected to speak and act with kindness and respect towards themselves, other people and other people's property. We will follow the Wayside Way: Be Respectful, Be Safe, Be Punctual, Be Prepared, Be Responsible.

#### **Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments**

- 1<sup>st</sup> 6 weeks: Fiction Genres and Writing Realistic Fiction
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 6 weeks: Literary Analysis/Character
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 6 weeks: Literary Analysis/Theme
- 4<sup>th</sup> 6 weeks: The Art of Argument
- 5<sup>th</sup> 6 weeks: Multi-genre reading on historical issues and responding to reading
- 6<sup>th</sup> 6 weeks: Fantasy, Dystopian, and Science Fiction

#### **Academic Integrity:**

Academic integrity values the work of individuals regardless if it is another student's work, a researcher, or author. The pursuit of learning requires each student to be responsible for his or her academic work. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in our schools. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or other supervising professional employee and considers written materials, observation, or information from students. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary and/or academic penalties. The teacher and campus administrator shall jointly determine such action.

#### **Mirroring Grades:**

On your child's schedule and report card, parents and students will see a two-period course (ELAR 6A/ELAR 6B or ELAR 7A/ELAR 7B) so that teachers can interweave reading and writing seamlessly. Therefore, these grades will be mirrored in both courses. In the event that these two blocks are split across two teachers, these teachers will be planning and communicating closely with each other so that grades can still closely match.