



Seventh Grade English Language Arts and Reading 7A/7B

Mrs. Vanessa Barganier
vbarganier@ems-isd.net

Conference Period: First Period – 8:20-9:07 AM

Tutoring Opportunities: Before or after school, by appointment only

Class Materials:

- Current independent reading material (checked out from classroom or campus library or brought from home)
- 1 Composition book
- Blue/black/red ink pens
- Pencils
- Binder with dividers and loose-leaf notebook paper
- Canvas and student email, as needed

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:

This two-period course integrates the study of literary, informational, and argument texts through the contexts of reading and writing. Students engage in independent, self-selected reading, listening, and speaking while deepening their skills of comprehension, response, author's purpose and craft, and critical thinking. Teachers model complex literacy skills through mentor texts. Students also engage in vocabulary, grammar study, and research.

Course Goals:

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.

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

- Demonstrate increased fluency and stamina in reading
- Analyze and respond to texts from various genres
- Investigate and synthesize topics across multiple texts and genres
- Generate ideas and increase stamina for writing using multiple strategies
- Use the writing process to compose, revise, and edit a variety of written pieces

Student Evaluation:

The grading system for this course is as follows:

- Middle School (on-level and Advanced) • 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 students and parents through Family Access.

Assignments, exams, expectations outside of the classroom:

Students are expected to spend time reading independently outside of class. Daily work that is not completed during class will become homework. Students are expected to return the following school day with the completed work. Points may be deducted for late assignments; however, a grade of zero will be recorded in the gradebook until the work is received. Any assignment not received within three days of the due date will remain a zero in the gradebook per district policy.

Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-Up Work:

Be present every day for class. Additionally, make sure you are always on time! Instructional time is bell to bell, so if you are not physically present and engaged, you are missing valuable learning.

2 Tardies = Verbal Warning; 3 Tardies = Parent Contact; 4 Tardies = Office Referral

When students are absent, they should check the agenda calendar and the make-up crate for the work. Students have one day for each day missed plus one additional day in which to complete all make-up work. If there are special circumstances, the student should visit with me to consider arranging an extension of the due date. Any assignments given before the absence are due upon the student's return to school. Students who are absent on the day that a test is given should be prepared to take the test upon their return to school. Make-up tests may need to be completed before or after school. Please note: STUDENTS are responsible for any assignments, notetaking, or learning that is missed.

Classroom Expectations:

Students are always expected to follow the Creekview Way.

- Show Respect
- Work Hard
- Be Responsible
- Be Honest
- Live Safe

Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments:

Students will participate in Reading and Writing Workshop covering a variety of genres and topics. Please see the parent letters issued through Family Access each six weeks period for more details.

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.