



## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Basic (Resource) English Language Arts & Reading

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**Conference Period: 1<sup>st</sup> period 8:20 a.m. – 9:07 a.m.**

**Tutoring Opportunities:** Thursday 7:50 a.m. to 8:20 a.m./Thursday 3:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m./Friday 3:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

### **Class Materials:**

- Access to Canvas
- Pencils
- Spiral Journal/Notebook
- Binder (larger than 1 inch)

### **Course Description:**

409521/509512 Basic Language Arts and Reading 7A/7B

Literacy skills include vocabulary development, comprehension, composition, grammar study, response, and research. Students engage in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and thinking in this two-period course. Students read both self-selected and whole-class readings in order to build their stamina of grade-level texts. Usage skills develop the student's ability to communicate and write effectively. This course is designed to meet the individual needs of the student. Placement in this course is determined by ARD Committee.

### **Course Goals:**

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

- Develop stamina for independent reading and writing
- Learn to navigate various texts, including nonfiction, using a variety of strategies for stronger comprehension
- Investigate research topics using appropriate grade-level resources while writing about various topics researched
- Make connections across genres in text
- Develop self-reflection while writing to edit/revise works produced by the student

### **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:**

Assignments will be posted in Canvas for students to access in digital format and to utilize when absent or when needing to work from home. Independent reading will take place within the classroom and at home. Students may access any assignments, work, and weekly lesson plans using their Single Sign-On (SSO) and then going to Canvas. If students wish to share their assignments with the teacher, they may upload them into Canvas and/or email them to the teacher using their student email accounts located in their SSO under Microsoft Office 365.

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

A student is only allowed 18 total absences for the year. At which point he/she may be required to bring a doctor note for any absence to be excused.

For an absence to be excused with a parent note, the note must be received at school within 72 hours of the absence. Parent notes received after the 72-hour deadline will not change the absence from unexcused to excused.

Medical absences are when a student has a doctor note stating the day they missed. By law, we are not allowed to mark a medical absence without a doctor's note. All doctor notes must have the student's name, the date of the absence, and when they are allowed back to school.

Truancy may be filed after a student misses 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period without excuse.

If a student is absent, they will be allowed to turn in the assignment or make-up the assessment/quiz with the amount of days absent equivalent to their make-up time.

**Classroom Expectations:**

Students will speak with appropriate language within the classroom when speaking to teachers, staff, and their peers. Students will arrive on time or have an appropriate written excuse to enter the classroom without tardy. Students will not place their hands on any person in the classroom or school with negative intent or unwanted touch. Students will express their needs/desires and advocate for themselves through appropriate language when communicating with the teacher and their peers.

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

1<sup>st</sup> Six Weeks – Building a Foundation of Independent Reading using workshop.

1<sup>st</sup> Six Weeks – Writing Realistic Fiction

2<sup>nd</sup> Six Weeks – Investigating Characterization including an Author Study through book club

2<sup>nd</sup> Six Weeks – Writing Informational Text

3<sup>rd</sup> Six Weeks – Reading like a Writer – Increasing the Rigor

3<sup>rd</sup> Six Weeks – Informational Text Analysis – Thematic and across all genres

4<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks – Research to Compose Well-Crafted Arguments

4<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks – Research Based Argumentative Essay

5<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks – Reading Mentor Texts Across All Genres while using STAAR strategies

5<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks – Writing Across All Genres and the ECR+ format

6<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks – Studying Various Genres of Text

6<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks – Fantasy Writing

**Academic Integrity: Update from GRH**

Academic integrity values the work of individuals regardless of 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.

**All materials needed for class, such as novels, will be provided by the district/campus. School supplies are required to be provided by the student – pencil, spiral notebook/journal, and binder (larger than 1")**