

AUSTIN ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL
7TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)
COURSE SYLLABUS
TEACHERS: H. SMITH & I. WALKER



SEVENTH GRADE ELA COURSE DESCRIPTION

The seventh grade curriculum is designed to ensure scholars' readiness for high school. The curriculum includes richer texts and more challenging and sophisticated writing tasks and projects; additionally, there is a greater emphasis on individual responsibility. During a 60 minute period, scholars work in all strands of the English Language Arts Curriculum under the Georgia Standards of Excellence including: reading, writing, language/grammar, speaking, and listening. To further core curriculum goals, selected novels, articles, poems, and short passages are used to teach each ELA standard. During both semesters the primary focus will be on both Informational Text and Literary Text. Use of personalized learning and differentiated instruction ensures that the needs of all scholars are met.

INDEPENDENT READING

Our scholars are expected to read, both informational and fictional texts in a variety of genres and modes of discourse, including technical texts related to various subject areas. Additionally, scholars may be required to maintain records of books read using individual book logs and demonstrate comprehension of selected texts through the presentation of individual book projects. Silent reading time may be scheduled in class; however, scholars are expected to read regularly outside of class.

Reading comprehension skills and strategies are also explicitly taught at the middle school level within the ELA class. While engaging in reading mini-lessons, reading self-selected texts, or partaking in individual reading conferences with teachers, scholars develop an appreciation for reading while acquiring the habits and behaviors necessary for academic success.

WRITING

Scholars write in a variety of informal (journals, class notes) and formal (narrative, expository, persuasive/argumentative, and technical) modes, for a variety of purposes and audiences. In addition to teaching the form and structure of each genre, writing instruction emphasizes grammar, usage and conventions. Using mini-lessons and writing workshops, grammar is taught in the context of scholar reading and writing.

LISTENING, SPEAKING, AND VIEWING

Expectations for listening, speaking, and viewing behavior are explicitly taught and modeled for scholars. Opportunities to practice these skills may include whole-class and small group discussion, projects, field trips, speakers, oral presentations, scholar-to-teacher conferences, and peer-to-peer conversations. Strategic use of electronic, film, and video resources enrich cultural and media literacy while helping scholars to grow into critically aware consumers and citizens.

PERSONALIZED LEARNING

This ELA class will implement elements of personalized learning as a pilot class at ARMS. Specifically, scholars will engage in goal setting, conferencing/progress monitoring, blended learning (using our 1:1 technology), and a focus on learning targets. Scholars will have the opportunity to choose some aspects of their learning and may select from a variety of differentiated assignments (e.g., playlists and choice boards). Even still, all scholars will be taught the Georgia Standards of Excellence which are assessed on the Georgia Milestones End-of-Grade Assessment.

AUSTIN ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL
7TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)
COURSE SYLLABUS
TEACHERS: H. SMITH & I. WALKER



GRADING SYSTEM

A = 100 – 90

B = 89 – 80

C = 79 – 74

D = 73 – 70

F = below 70

GRADING POLICY (CATEGORY WEIGHTS)

- ✓ **Practice Work: Max 25%**
 - Labs/Practice Work 20%
 - Notebook 5% (One per term required)
- ✓ **Assessment: Max 60%**
 - Projects 15%
 - CFA (Common Formative Assessments) 30%
 - Quizzes 15%
- ✓ **Final Exam: 15%**

CLASSROOM RULES

1. Be respectful.
2. Be prepared.
3. Be a scholar.

CONSEQUENCES:

(May be adjusted based on circumstances)

1. Warning and Redirection
2. Parent Contact and Redirection
3. Parent Contact and Silent Lunch/Detention
4. Parent Contact and JAG Bite/Office Referral
5. Parent-Teacher Conference and Behavior Contract

Please note that certain acts of misbehavior/misconduct may result in an automatic JAG Bite/Office Referral based on school board policy and building-level procedure. Nonetheless, scholars are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times. We understand that scholars are susceptible to making mistakes, as everyone has. However, scholars should not exhibit a pattern of discipline issues.

CLASSROOM AND SCHOOL PROCEDURES

- Stay on task.
- Follow all directions the first time given.
- Transition silently in the hallway.
- Enter and exit the classroom quietly.
- Sit and remain seated in your assigned seat.
- Do not talk when the teacher is teaching (no sidebar conversations).
- Raise your hand and wait to be called on to speak with a teacher.
- Use the restroom before class.
- Go to your locker and bring your necessary belongings before class.
- Make sure your full name is placed on all assignments.
- Complete and turn in all assignments on time.
- Bring your fully-charged laptop to class every day.
- Keep all cellphones and electronic devices in your locker or at home.
- Sit at your assigned table during lunch.
- Notify the teacher if you are absent or otherwise miss class.

PARENT CONTACT/COMMUNICATION

This class will use Infinite Campus and Remind 101 to communicate information. Check your email on file in Infinite Campus on a regular basis. Please use the following code to sign-up for automatic text message alerts via Remind 101:

Text the message @3h4fa2 to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @3h4fa2 to (616) 288-2671.

AUSTIN ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL
7TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)
COURSE SYLLABUS
TEACHERS: H. SMITH & I. WALKER



SCHOLAR FULL NAME: _____ ELA CLASS PERIOD: _____

SCHOLAR & PARENT/GUARDIAN ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I have fully read the course syllabus and understand all expectations, requirements, and grading practices therein. I have signed-up for the Remind 101 text message alerts. I have checked my contact information in Infinite Campus to ensure all phone numbers and emails are up to date.

Parent Name(s):	
Phone Number(s):	Email:

I have read and discussed all expectations and policies with my scholar.

Parent Signature:	Date:
Scholar Signature:	Date:

PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED PAGE TO YOUR LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER!