

Dear Parents/Guardians and 7 Red ELA Students:

Welcome to Seventh Grade English Language Arts! I am very excited to guide you through an important year of critical thinking, learning, and fun. Together, with hard work and dedication, we will develop reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Students will follow a skills based curriculum focused on the New York State Next Generation Standards. District and teacher-selected resources will be used to learn about and develop the skills associated with the New York State Next Generation Standards.

Materials

- (1) 2-pocket folder for ELA homework and ELA handouts (strictly for ELA)
- (1) 1-subject marble composition notebook
- (1 box) pens
- (1 box) pencils
- (1) personal pencil sharpener
- (1 box) colored pencils
- (2) highlighters
- (2 packs) Post-It Notes (standard size)
- (1 package) loose-leaf paper
- (1 box) tissues
- (1 small container) disinfecting wipes for classroom
- earbuds for use with Chromebooks (wired or bluetooth)
- a pencil case to store supplies needed in multiple classes

Grading Policy

Student work will be graded on a Total Points System. The amount of points allotted for each task will depend on the amount of work connected to the task. For example, a small assignment, like a completed Thinking Map, would be worth 5 total points. Whereas, a complete final draft for an extended response essay, would be worth more points due to the amount of work needed to complete this assignment. A final draft essay would be worth 36 total points. The points a student actually receives after the assignments are graded will be divided by the total possible points, and converted to a percentage out of 100. For example, if the student earned 33 out of 36 points, for an extended response essay, they will have earned a 92%. The student's overall points will be converted to a percentage. Therefore, if a student earned 280 out of 300 total points, her average will be 93%.

Preparation/Participation Policy

Students will automatically begin each quarter with 15 points for a Preparation/Participation Grade. Consistent Preparation/Participation is rewarded. Each time a student is unprepared with materials, one point will be deducted from the quarterly Preparation/Participation Grade. In addition, if an assignment is not completed by the due date and time, one point will be deducted from the Preparation/Participation Grade for each day it is not completed. The assignment will be graded as usual, which will represent a true reflection of the student's ability. Points will only be lost on the Preparation/Participation Grade, not the assignment. In addition, students will lose points on their Preparation/Participation Grade if they do not complete assigned classwork, do not contribute to group work, or do not stay on task during a lesson. At the beginning of each quarter, the Preparation/Participation Grade will be reset to 15 points.

Student Writing

Parents/Guardians - Please read your child's written/typed work, often, to make sure all parts are appropriate along with at a level that you feel represents your child's best effort. In ELA, the teacher will read and review as much of the student work as possible. However, the teacher will not be able to read every single sentence throughout the year. Please also check in on this work to be sure that we are both monitoring student expression in case your child is writing about something that raises concerns. Please contact your child's school counselor, or Mr. Horton, if you read something concerning so that we can assist your child as soon as possible.

Independent Reading

By reading, students will improve thinking skills, stimulate imagination, and enhance vocabulary development. Often, students will choose their own independent reading books. Students will be asked to read every day and to bring their independent reading books to class every day. Please refer to the following when choosing books:

- **Appropriate Material** - Please take the time to look through the book to be sure that it is appropriate for a seventh grader. You should read the description on the jacket of the book, browse through many pages to check for appropriate content, and ask others that have read the book to see if it is an appropriate choice.
- **Reading Level** - Please check to see if this book is at the appropriate reading level. Be sure that the choice is an appropriate challenge for the student to read in the sense that it is not too "simple" or too "difficult."
- **Digital Book** - Students may choose to experience their book digitally. You may not use a device other than your Chromebook, in class, to read your book. You may use your Chromebook to access a digital copy of your book. If this is not possible, please bring an alternative text to class.

Genius Hour

Genius Hour, also known as 20Time, will happen one day per week (20% of the week), in ELA, where students will choose a goal, at the beginning of each quarter, to work on and hopefully complete, by the end of the quarter. This will be a SMART Goal (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Time Bound). This unique experience will allow students to pursue passions, think for themselves, ask and answer their own questions, do their own research, and form their own conclusions with their learning.

Honors Students

The ELA Honors class will bring a higher expectation for reading, writing, listening, speaking and participation. Honors students are expected to maintain at least an overall average of 85 in ELA to continue to be considered for Honors ELA. If the student average consistently falls below the expected 85, the teacher, student, parents, school counselor, and an administrator, will talk to determine if the Honors class is the appropriate program for the student.

Behavior Expectations

Appropriate student behavior and performance are crucial for success in ELA. Students are expected to come to class prepared with materials and a desire to be a productive part of the lesson. All parts of the [Wappingers Central School District 2024-2025 Code of Conduct](#) will be followed in ELA.

Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior

- 1st Time - Warning
- 2nd Time - 2nd Warning & Parent Email
- 3rd Time - Referral to Administration

- Removal From Class - Teachers have the authority to remove a student from their classrooms whenever the student substantially disrupts the educational process, or substantially interferes with the teacher’s authority in the classroom, or poses a continuing danger to persons or property.

Communication

Assignments and due dates will be posted through Google Classroom and on [my website](#). You will also receive Guardian Summaries, through Google Classroom. Please accept the Guardian Summary Email to have access to this feature. Parent Portal is another great tool to use, weekly, to review student progress.

If the student gives a 100% honest effort in ELA, they will be successful this year. If you would like to contact me you may email me at christopher.horton@wcsdny.org or leave me a message at 227-1700 ext. 50848. Let’s work together to make this school year an informative, organized, and enjoyable experience.

Sincerely,

Mr. Horton
7 Red ELA Teacher

After reading the accompanying letter, please complete the Google Form that represents your child’s ELA Class Period to show that you have read and understand the procedures in Mr. Horton’s ELA class. Thank you.

<u>Period 1 - 7 Red ELA Regents - Course Outline Confirmation</u>
<u>Period 2 - 7 Red ELA Regents Course Outline Confirmation</u>
<u>Period 3 - 7 Red ELA Honors Course Outline Confirmation</u>
<u>Period 8 - 7 Red ELA Regents Course Outline Confirmation</u>
<u>Period 9 - 7 Red Regents ELA Course Outline Confirmation</u>