

# Welcome!

## English Language Arts

2023 - - - 2024

Mrs. Brill & Ms. Santos

### Supplies

Everyday in ELA you need:

- marbled composition notebook for **reader/ writer's notebook**
- ELA binder with dividers for the following sections: **Vocabulary, Reading, & Writing**
- Highlighters, sticky notes (Post-Its), dry erase markers
- An independent reading book you LOVE

### Curriculum

This year in ELA 7 we will be focusing on reading, writing, speaking, and listening based on the Next Generation ELA Learning Standards. District and teacher-selected resources and materials will be used to ensure that students become critical readers, writers, listeners, speakers, and most importantly **thinkers!**

- **Reading:** In addition to any reading materials handed out for homework, students will be expected to be reading an independent book at all times. We will read whole class texts, as well. In both cases, homework assignments will be given surrounding the book, as well as in class writing assignments. **Independent reading books must be brought to class each day by students.** In addition, students should be reading 20-30 minutes each night.



**Parent/guardian please initial here.** \_\_\_\_\_

- **Writing:** ELA 7 students write **daily:** reader's response, free writes, argument, narrative, and informational pieces, reflections, etc. We will use the writing process to revise and edit our work to strengthen our skills. Daily writing will be done in our writer's notebooks and longer pieces will be worked on in assigned Google Docs, then submitted in Google Classroom.

**E-mailed assignments will not be accepted.** We will also discover how writing is a part of our everyday lives, not just something we do when assigned. **Students will write in their writer's notebooks routinely;** this will vary based on our unit of study and **count for credit.** This writing will not *necessarily be read and graded each week.*

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- **Speaking & Listening:** Part of students' grades will be based upon participation in class discussions, both small group and whole group. Students will learn to discuss the ideas in the texts that they read and back up points with textual evidence.



## Respect

Our classroom is going to be a positive environment where you will treat others how you want to be treated! This also means respecting the property of our school, your teachers, and peers. Failure to use respect in any way will result in a consequence, as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct:



- 1<sup>st</sup> time-warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> time-2<sup>nd</sup> warning/teacher lunch detention
- 3<sup>rd</sup> time-contact home
- 4<sup>th</sup> time-administrative referral

## Student Expectations

- You are expected to be on time every day. *On time means you are in your seat when the bell rings, ready to begin class. Three unexcused lates will result in a phone call/email home. The fourth late will call for a referral, per school policy.*
- Please bring required materials to each class: planner, pens, ELA binder, any books you are reading for class, OR anything specified at an earlier date. **Locker trips will not be permitted.** Coming to class prepared will help you stay organized and make being and staying successful much easier!
- Assume homework to be assigned most days during the week. You must copy the homework down at the beginning of class every day. It should be done *immediately*.
- If you miss a class at any point in the year it is 100% your responsibility to find out what you missed and make it up. This includes **absences, lessons, coming into school late**, etc. You should check with a classmate, your class period folder, and also visit our webpage or Google Classroom for important information. **Use your resources!**
- ***If it is a school rule, it is a class rule.*** This applies to gum, cell phones, food and drinks, etc. Please be **respectful, responsible, and safe!**

## Planners

You are expected to write your **homework and important announcements** in your planner every day. The assignment will be on the board above the do now. Also, when you receive a quiz, test, writing, or project grade, it is written in the planner. **You should never write “No Homework” for ELA!** Even though homework assignments will be updated on the website, which can be accessed quickly through the school’s website, you should get in the habit of keeping track of your own work and schedule.

## Grading Policy

Assignments will vary from quarter to quarter, and the quarterly grade will be based on a **Total Points** system. The points a student receives will depend on the assignment, but generally speaking, the longer and more complex the assignment or assessment is, the more points it will be worth, and thus, the more heavily weighted it is toward the quarterly grade. For example, full credit for a short homework assignment might be worth 6 points, whereas a major essay might be worth

26 points, or more. 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. In one scenario, if a student earned 120 points out of a possible 130, his or her grade would be a 92 on the report card. Rubrics will be given out when a long term assignment is given, and points are indicated on all assignments.

*Preparation and Participation* (Including LATE OR INCOMPLETE WORK):

Students will begin each quarter with an automatic 30 points for a Preparation/Participation grade. Consistent preparation and participation is rewarded. Each time a student is unprepared with materials (reading book, signed materials, etc.), one point will be deducted from the quarterly preparation/participation grade. In addition, if a homework assignment is not done on the due date, one point will be deducted from the preparation/participation grade. If the work is still not completed by the second day, a student should come for a working lunch to complete the work. The assignment will be graded as usual. Points will only be lost on the preparation/participation grade, not the assignment, in order to assess the students' understanding of the work accurately. 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 grade will be reset to 30.

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Course Texts

Elements of Literature: First Course, Write Source: A Book for Writing, Thinking, and Learning (both are kept in the classroom), Collections (all textbooks kept in classroom)

Communication

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Ms. Santos Contact:

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Please sign below indicating that you have read and agree to our class policies and expectations.

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_