

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians:

Welcome to Team 74 and to my English Language Arts class! Together we will use Next Generation Learning Standards to guide instruction, with a focus on improving and expanding our writing capabilities. We will also work diligently to improve our reading comprehension skills. Over the course of this year, you will be exposed to various genres of study with an emphasis on nonfiction reading and writing. Our Units of Study include Narrative, Argumentative, Response to Literature and Informational Writing. To Ensure your success, please comply with the following list of expectations:

1. **Materials-** Please bring the following materials to school by **Wednesday, September 12th**

- Two Marble Notebooks (Specifically for ELA, not multi subject)
- One planner/agenda (you may purchase your own or a MS 74 agenda)
- Several **blue** or **black** pens
- Two red pens
- Two highlighters (Any color)
- Mini Stapler with an ongoing supply of staples
- Post-Its (Any size/color)
- Two folders (horizontal pockets only please) **Class color:** _____
- **An independent reading book. Students must have a book of their choice at ALL TIMES to bring to class for independent reading. This cannot be a book that they have already read.**
- One package of wide ruled loose leaf paper

Additional items for the classroom:

- One box of tissues
- One roll of paper towels

2. **Homework**

- Homework is assigned to reinforce skills taught in class or to prepare for the following day's lesson. Late homework will result in a penalty of **5 points off** for each day past the initial due date. Homework not completed due to absence or otherwise will not be accepted without a note.
- Homework grades are based on effort, and neatness
- If you are absent, it is your responsibility to contact a classmate.
- My homework buddy is _____ their phone number is _____ and their email is _____ to find out what was covered in class.

3. **Grading Policy**

- 60% - Tests/Quizzes/Projects/Other Graded Work
- 15% - Homework
- 15% - Classwork Rubric
- 10% - Classwork

4. **Routines and Procedures**

- Students are expected to come to class prepared with the proper materials daily. Failure to do so may result in a loss of points from your classwork grade.
- Students are expected to enter the classroom on time and be prepared for work. They must copy the daily aim into their notebook, copy the homework in their agenda and be ready to learn.
- Students may have a bottle of water in class. Food is not permitted in class.
- If students need to use the restroom they must sign in and out as per school policy.
- Students must provide a late pass if they arrive after the late bell.

5. Reading

- Students are required to read independently and complete reading responses. This will be assigned monthly.

6. State Assessment - The English Language Arts exam takes place on March 25th - March 27th.

English Language Arts Department Goals

Reading: Students will read closely to determine the central idea of a text and analyze what the text says explicitly. Students will cite clear and relevant evidence to support their analysis of both literary and informational texts.

Writing: Students will write routinely on a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences. Students will be able to develop and support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

Speaking and Listening: Students will engage in high quality discussions incorporating responding to and extending upon peer response techniques. Students will craft questions as to deepen critical thinking skills and support ideas with clear and relevant evidence.

Language: Students will be able to demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking using domain specific vocabulary.

A Final Thought...

The ELA curriculum is both exciting and challenging. I am confident you will enjoy the year and have a positive experience. Bring your enthusiasm, your desire to learn, and your sense of humor to class every day! I am looking forward to having you as a student in my class this year!

Sincerely,

Mr. Simone

*Parents: Please sign and date below. Your child is responsible for bringing back the signed tear off.

*Students: Please sign and tape this document in your English Language Arts notebook by Friday to receive a grade of 100% towards the homework portion of your grade (Do not remove for the entire school year for future reference).

TEAR OFF, SIGN AND RETURN

Dear Mr. Simone,

I have read and understood what is expected to ensure my success in English Language Arts class.

Student's signature

Parent's Signature

Student's name (print)

Class

Date