

# 11<sup>TH</sup> LANGUAGE ARTS

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Instructor: Ms. Meek Rm D-25

*Course Description:* This course will be challenging with the objective being to heighten reading, writing, and critical thinking skills of students. Here, we will investigate the processes that make for purposeful reading and quality writing, and then utilize those strategies to support your own work. Throughout the year, we will engage the writing process; non-fiction work; fiction work; creative writing; argumentative thinking; and analysis of argumentative texts. We will work emphasizing reading and writing for purpose, self-revision, peer-revision, and collaborative group work and discussion to uncover and attain mastery of the curriculum. With dedication and extremely consistent hard work, students will have a perfect chance of succeeding in this class.

*Philosophy:* if you plan on minimal participation, mediocre preparation, and reliance on luck, intervention, or begging, you won't make it. Please plan on cultivating an active mind in order to learn and grow every day in this class, in high school, and in life beyond

*Participation:* you will be rewarded participation points for being actively engaged in class and in the activities we do- I expect all students to voice comments, questions, opinions, and thoughts in every discussion.

*Cell Phones:* I comprehend that banning your cell phones is akin to taking out your very hearts. So I won't do that. However, most days I will give you a three-minute break to check them for life altering news. Take note, if your phone becomes a friend in the classroom that hinders learning, becomes disrespectful to me or others, or is an item that we bicker over: I will ask you to relinquish it until at least the end of that day. Be respectful.

*Tardiness/Attendance:* I will follow the schools policy on this matter. Just know that tardies are disrespectful, disruptive, and derelict. Do not ask me the question "did I miss anything important?". We do not waste time on unimportant material in class. Therefore, if you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and make it up in a timely manner. Obviously, the better alternative is to be in class. Come prepared; be alert, hydrated, excited, and enthusiastic to be here. Be responsible for yourself, know what you need, and be grown-ups. I believe in you. Hall pass, one at a time.

*Materials:*

Pen (black and either one red or color- blue, green, etc.)  
Pencil  
Journal of some sort (composition or just a spiral notebook)  
Folder specific to this class (or tab in binder)  
Materials we are reading at the time

*Late Work/ Absent Work:*

Turning in work on time, completed, is a crucial part of success in this classroom. This is always the preferred method. When you are absent, contact a friend or email me. Find out what you missed immediately. Late work will be docked 20% and accepted until two deadlines. The first is midterms. The second is a week before the end of the quarter. After these two deadlines you can no longer make up the work, so pay attention to them.

*Movies:*

In Junior Language Arts we will occasionally view movies for educational purposes only. They directly relate to the content and material we will be going over. The movies will be 'PG' and 'PG-13' only; no 'R' rated movies will be shown. By signing below you are giving your child permission to view these films.

*Classroom Buddies:* When you are absent, these buddies will love to fill you in. Then, you come talk to me on your own time and I will help you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*My note to you:*

I know that your initial response to school can be one of deflated defeat. It is my goal to change that to at least one of mild enthusiasm. So I am asking you for a chance to help you love literature, writing, and learning together. I will be your biggest advocate, confidant, and leader in this class as long as you bring your best self to class as well. Here's to a new year, I'm glad you're here.

Administrator Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Please read over this with your parents/guardians, sign, and return by the NEXT class period.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (printed student name), have read and understand the following about my Language Arts class this year. If I have any questions I will ask them and am okay being responsible for the items discussed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature  
Parent/Guardian signature

Please write down any concerns, situations, or thoughts I should know about on this page as well. Thank you.