

SYLLABUS 2021-22

Subject: English Language Arts (ELA)

Instructor: Mr. Wilkinson Room: 303 Periods: 4, 5 & 6

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COURSE DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

My English class is made up of the following three reading and writing programs:

1. **Reading & Writing Workshop:** A three-week motivational program that encourages the love of reading and writing. Students grow in their skills as a reader and writer through motivators such as, getting to choose their own independent fictional reading books, and which topics they would like to write about in their Writer's Notebook. The sky is "almost" the limit, on topics that students can write about.
2. **Amplify: The District's Digital English Language Arts Program:** An online reading and writing program adopted last year by the district. Amplify units introduce students to many captivating stories and historic events that students are asked to analyze and write about. Amplify also offers an extensive library of 640 full-length texts, and fun vocabulary and grammar units.
3. **Analyzing and Writing Narrative and Argumentative Essays:** These critical concepts were adopted by the district for the 2021-22 school year. To view all Common Core State Standards (CCSS) aligned with these critical concepts view the following link:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16GZ375QoHgYcQrHtXqYveXazsjecSwj/view>

1. READING & WRITING WORKSHOP: Course Description

Students experience this fun, motivating, and effective Reading & Writing Workshop during the first three weeks of each grading period. The last three weeks of each grading period is devoted to the district's digital reading and writing program called Amplify.

All assignments in the Reading & Writing Workshop are aligned with the district's critical concepts/CCSS.

*Note: The critical concepts/CCSS of analyzing and writing narrative and argumentative essays are incorporated into the three-week cycle of the Reading & Writing Workshop.

MONDAY:

Weekly Spelling & Definition List: Every Monday of the three-week cycle, students receive a new spelling and definition list of twenty "Author" words: precise adjectives, nouns, and verbs that paint an image in the reader's mind rather than just tell. All author words are selected from a student generated list.

Team Spelling & Definition Game: On the first Monday of each three-week cycle, students play a fun spelling and definition game.

Peer Editing Activity: On the 2nd and 3rd Monday of each three-week cycle, students improve their Writer's Notebook Entry through a fun peer editing activity.

TUESDAY:

***Narrative or Argumentative Essay Lesson:** The focus of the first semester is to teach students how to analyze a narrative story, to gain the skills to effectively write one. The focus of the second semester is to teach students how to analyze an argumentative essay, to gain the skills to effectively write one.

Independent Reading: Every Tuesday of the three-week cycle, students read independently from their self-selected novel/fictional book for the last 25 minutes of the class.

Published Writer's Notebook Entry: On the third Tuesday of each three-week cycle, at the beginning of class, students take their favorite Writer's Notebook entry through the writing process: drafting, editing, and publishing. Published pieces are printed out and become part of the classroom's library.

WEDNESDAY:

Writing Lesson: All writing lessons will focus on the standards students are to incorporate into their Writer's Notebook Entry: Grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization, paragraphing, dialogue, and figurative language.

Independent Writing: Every Wednesday students write independently in their Writer's Notebook for the last 25 minutes of the class, incorporating all learned writing strategies into their self-selected topic and/or narrative story.

Key Learning Assessment/KLA: On the last Wednesday of the three-week cycle, students take an online quiz called a KLA. KLA's cover the critical concepts related to narrative and argumentative analyses and writing. All KLA's consist of ten multiple choice questions.

THURSDAY:

***Narrative or Argumentative Essay Lesson:** The focus of the first semester is to teach students how to analyze a narrative story, to gain the skills to effectively write one. The focus of the second semester is to teach students how to analyze an argumentative essay, to gain the skills to effectively write one.

Independent Reading: Every Thursday of the three-week cycle, students read independently from their self-selected novel/fictional book for the last 25 minutes of the class.

Published Writer's Notebook Entry: On the third Thursday of each three-week cycle, at the beginning of class, students take their favorite Writer's Notebook entry through the writing process: drafting, editing, and publishing. Published pieces are printed out and become part of the classroom's library.

FRIDAY:

Spelling and Definition Quiz: Every Friday of the three-week cycle, at the beginning of class, students take a spelling and definition quiz. Students are first asked to spell ten of the twenty words from Monday's list, and lastly asked to match the correct definitions to the spelled words. All 20 definitions are provided on the quiz.

Independent Writing: Every Friday of the three-week cycle, after taking the quiz, students write independently in their Writer's Notebook for the last 25 minutes of the class, incorporating all the learned writing strategies into their self-selected topic and/or narrative story.

Independent Reading: If a student has finished their Writer's Notebook Entry, the student can read independently.

READING & WRITING WORKSHOP: Homework Assignments

Writer's Notebook Entry: Due on the 2nd & 3rd Monday of the three-week cycle, by the end of the day.

Published Writer's Notebook Entry: Due on the last Friday of the three-week cycle, by the end of the day.

Learning 5 Unfamiliar Words Through Context Clues: Due each Friday of the three-week cycle, by the end of the day.

Reading Log: Due on the last Friday of the three-week cycle, by the end of the day. Note: To be introduced at the beginning of the next Reading & Writing Workshop cycle.

2. AMPLIFY: DIGITAL READING AND WRITING PROGRAM: Overview

Amplify ELA is a blended curriculum designed for middle school students and teachers. It provides the following:

An engaging digital program with comprehensive print materials, including Teacher Editions, Student Editions, and Writing Journals for grades 6-8.

A year's worth of instruction for each grade.

Complex, content-rich literary and informational texts.

Differentiation that supports all students with reading complex texts, and an interactive eReader with an array of multimedia tools.

Embedded assessments that allow for uninterrupted instructional time.

The Amplify Library—a digital collection of more than 650 full-length texts.

UNITS OF STUDY: Each of the below units are taught during the last three weeks of the grading periods.

(P1) Grading Period: Dahl & Narrative: 28 Lessons

(P2) Grading Period: The Chocolate Collection: 25 Lessons

(S1) Grading Period: Summer of the Mariposas: 27 Lessons

(P3) Grading Period: The Titanic Collection: 25 Lessons

(P4) Grading Period Exception: Literary Invention Unit: Students invent a new product and then write a persuasive commercial and descriptive paragraph about it. Additionally, students draw a labeled picture of their invention and make an inexpensive prototype/model. Note: This is not an Amplify unit, but rather a teachers' choice of a literary unit, one that they have a special and unique interest in.

(S2) Grading Period: Grammar: 36 Lessons

GRADING POLICY: All assignments are graded on the 100-point system, see grading scale below. All assignments are also weighted from 1-5, determined by difficulty level of the assignment.

LIST OF ASSIGNMENTS: Weight of the assignments are shown in the parentheses.

District's Narrative Essay (5)

District's Argument Essay (5)

Published Writer's Notebook Entry (4)

Reading Log (4)

AMPLIFY: Long Answers (4)

Writer's Notebook Entry (3)

Spelling & Definition Quiz (3)

AMPLIFY: Quizzes (3)

Learning 5 Unfamiliar Words Through Context Clues (3)

Key Learning Assessment (KLA) (2)

AMPLIFY: Medium Answers (2)

AMPLIFY: Short Answers (1)

GRADING SCALE:

A=90-100%

B=80-89%

C=70-79%

Rework=0-69%

LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

- **No Academic or Citizenship Penalty:** A student's academic and citizenship grade cannot be lowered for assignments turned in late. **Exception:** A student's academic grade will be lowered if the student fails to turn in any late assignment before the teacher's designated cut-off date.
- **Cut-off Date/End of the Grading Period:** All late assignments must be turned in by the end of the grading period that the assignment was given. Any assignment not turned in by the end of the grading period will receive a 50% grade. **Exception:** An absence that prevents the student from meeting the cut-off date.

CITIZENSHIP GRADES:

- The newly adopted citizenship grades for this year are: (E)=Exceeds, (M)=Meets, (I)=Inconsistent, and (U)=Unsatisfactory
- To view the complete citizenship adoption, click on the link:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IKHv_J5durRTLhgFCDoHENuc9zUgJLfwoGe9LO2al2w/edit

TUTORING DAY:

- Thursdays from 2:45-3:30 p.m.
- By appointment only: Students must give at least a one-day notice that they would like to attend.
- Two or more students must make an appointment, or tutoring will be cancelled. This is a district policy.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____