Holston Middle School 2021-2022
7th Grade English Language Arts

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COURSE OUTCOME: Seventh grade is an exciting time of discovery and growth for all students. In English/Language Arts, we explore various literary and media genres that include the following: fiction, poetry, drama, nonfiction, and novel studies. Through writing we will reflect, interpret, analyze, research and synthesize our ideas. Our goal is to grow as readers, writers, and people by considering different perspectives, novel ideas, informational text, and new online platforms. English/Language Arts instruction for students in seventh grade addresses the English/Language Arts standards, learning expectations and accomplishments from the Tennessee Department of Education English/Language Arts curriculum found here - TN standards.

INSTRUCTION:
Course Concepts:
- ❏ Reading Literature
- ❏ Reading Informational Text
- ❏ Writing – Expository, Narrative, Argumentative
- ❏ Speaking & Listening
- ❏ Language

General Pacing:
Each module will be completed within a 9-week period and include a variety of texts, writing assignments, and an ending benchmark test.
- ❏ Module 1 -Control and Conformity
- ❏ Module 2 - Spooky Tales and Mysteries
- ❏ Module 3 - Diversity and Community
- ❏ Module 4 - Crime on the Brain

Necessary Classroom Materials:
- o Loose-leaf, college-lined paper
- o Pencils
- o Binder for all subjects
- o **Charged** computer
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RESOURCES:
Course Resources:
Amplify.com
Outside Reading (articles and web-based resources)
The following novels *may* be used: *The Giver, Seedfolks , Al Capone Does My Shirts, Hunger Games, The Outsiders, City of Ember, Anthem, Chronicles of Narnia, Brown Girl Dreaming*

*If you do not approve of a specific resource listed in this syllabus, please make your request to your student's teacher in writing and an alternative assignment and/or materials will be provided. The request should include your name, student's name, the specific activity/materials in which you do not want your child to participate or to which you do not want them exposed, and the nature of your objection.

ASSESSMENT:

Grading will follow Knox County Schools Policy
- o   A= 93-100
- o   B= 85-92
- o   C= 75-84
- o   D= 70-74
- o   F= 69 and below

Grading Categories:
> *90% daily grades (Assignments, quizzes, and tests are worth different amount of points)
> *10% TCap results

Assignments:
Students will be responsible for keeping ALL assignments and classwork in their ELA Folder on their computer and/or folder in class. Explanations will be given in class concerning how to organize the ELA folder. Assignments include the following:

- **Writing Tasks**- Writing tasks will be given frequently to prepare students for the TCAP. They will be creating expository, narrative, and argumentative writings throughout the year.
- **Class work –** This may include notes, practice activities, individual, and group activities.
- **Homework** – Occasionally students will be given written assignments to complete at home. The students will be given a due date for each assignment.
- **Quizzes and Tests** – Benchmark assessments are given at the end of each 9 weeks. Weekly quizzes are also used to track skills.
- **Late work** -Students can turn in late work for the current module. Work is only accepted for the module that we are currently working on; students can't go back to old modules.
- **Make-up work policy:**
  If a student is absent, he/she may use any of the following guidelines to obtain his/her assignment for the missed class:
  1. Call a dependable friend or classmate for the assignment.
  2. Check our Canvas page.
  3. If a student is out more than three days, call the office in the morning by 9:45 to request assignments to be sent to the office by the end of the day. Students are responsible for making up any missed assignment, quiz, and/or test. Students must schedule a time for any make-ups the day he/she returns to school. I recommend that make-up quizzes and tests be scheduled before or after school so that students do not miss out on instruction time. If a student is unable to schedule make-up quizzes or tests before or after school hours, arrangements can be made to make it up during class. If a student does not make up the work missed, then he/she will receive a zero on the missed work. Knox County board policy states that students have the same number of days to make up an assignment as days missed.
- **Parent Portal Posting Policy:**
  - o   Communication with the student and parent will be done through Canvas or email. Grades will be posted in Aspen and updated at least once a week.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS:
> *Be Respectful
> *Be Responsible
> *Be Ready
> *Be Safe

*Students can earn PBIS points to spend in the school store by following these. When students fail to follow them, a student redirect or conference will take place. After another chance, if the student continues in the same behaviors, a behavior ticket may be issued.

***Important note**: I will be on leave until Fall Break with an unexpected family emergency situation. My interim teacher is a friend of mine, Mrs. Keith. We will be in communication, and she will also plan with Mrs. English.

PLAGIARISM

According to Harbrace Handbook, 15th edition:

Plagiarism is defined as "presenting someone else's ideas, research, or opinion as your own without proper documentation, even if it has been rephrased." It includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Copying verbatim all or part of another's written work;
2. Using phrases, figures, or illustrations without citing the source;
3. Paraphrasing ideas, conclusions, or research without citing the source;
4. Using all or part of a literary plot, poem, or film without attributing the work to its creator.

Cheating is defined as representing any other person's work or work from any source as your own.

CONSEQUENCES OF PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a form of stealing and academic fraud. Students who are found guilty of plagiarism will have the option of either re-doing the assignment within a specified time period and accepting a grade letter drop or taking a zero on the assignment. Parents should be involved in making the decision.

Per Tennessee State Board of Education Policy, the following MUST be posted on each syllabus:

Board Policy 1-431
Issues 7/95 Revised 6/08

The Board affirms that it is essential that the teaching about religion—and not of a religion be conducted in a factual, objective, and respectful manner in accordance with the following:

§ Music, art, literature, or drama with a religious theme or basis are permitted as part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs, provided it is essential to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively;

§ The emphasis on religious themes in the arts, literature, and history shall be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of these areas. Such studies shall never foster any particular religious tenets or demean any religious beliefs; and

§ Student-initiated expressions to questions or assignments which reflect their beliefs or non-beliefs about a religious theme shall be accommodated. For example, students are free to express religious belief or non-belief in compositions, art forms, music, speech, and debate.

o Additionally, if a course features religion within the curriculum and instructional materials, this information must be included within the syllabus, and the syllabus must be publicly posted. Within the syllabus, teachers must include specific religion-aligned selections that will be used throughout the year or semester.

Please tear off and return to the teacher.

I have read this syllabus and understand the requirements and regulations.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____