

...Home of the Dragons...



Language & Literature (ELA)

7th Grade ELA

Ms. Amarra Ellis

Course Syllabus 2024-2025



Course Description and Objectives

The seventh grade ELA curriculum aims to expand students' abilities in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language skills. This year we will read and analyze a variety of texts covering several genres. Students will progress through the writing process by planning, revising, editing, and publishing specific types of writing. Vocabulary, spelling, and grammar assignments will be covered in each unit content area. Students will work independently and in small groups. Appropriate technology and teaching strategies will be incorporated into lesson plans to differentiate instruction and motivate students to invest in their learning.

Textbooks

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt: Close Reader (Grade 7)

- Reading literary and informational texts
- Discussion and short responses

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt: Performance Assessment (Grade 7)

- Close reading of complex texts
- Writing w/sources – argument, literary analysis, research simulation
- Performance assessment practice

Reading Materials

Students will read a wide variety of books and printed/online publications, as well as be provided several opportunities to choose appropriate and approved reading materials. The goal is to build students' reading skills in informational, explanatory, argumentative, research, and narrative based texts.

Unit/Concept Names

Unit zero: Cite textual evidence

Unit 1: Development of Character/Ideas

Unit 2: Central Ideas

Unit 3: Text Structure

Unit 4: Point of View

Unit 5: Summarizing Text

Unit 6: Text Analysis

Major Course Projects and Instructional Activities

At least one project will be assigned each grading period. This will be an extension or enrichment of the concepts discussed. Students will have 1 to 3 weeks to complete each project depending on the complexity of the task. Some tasks and/or projects will be completed in class.

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GRADING POLICY: Richmond County Board of Education Grading Policy

- **Minor Grades 60%** (e.g. quizzes, labs, and other graded assignments to assess certain standards in a unit of study.)
 - **Minimum number** of minor grades per 6-week progress report period = **5**
- **Major Grades 40%** (e.g. tests, essays, research papers, project-based assignments.)
 - **Minimum number** of major grades per 6-week progress report period = **2**
- **Academic Grading Scale**

A (90-100)	B (80-89)	C (75-79)	D (70-74)	F (below 70)
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- Parents are encouraged to monitor their child's grades using the district Infinite Campus Parent Portal.
- Please contact the front office at 706-737-7288 for information to gain access to Infinite Campus.

Academic Dishonesty

The Student Code of Conduct, Rule 1(A)(t), states that no student shall cheat, alter records, plagiarize, receive unauthorized assistance or assist another in any type of academic dishonesty. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty will be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher and a supervising administrator, taking into consideration any written materials, observation, or information from witnesses. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, the task may be entered as "incomplete" and the student required to redo the assignment or retake the assessment.

Late Work

Late work is defined as assignments that are submitted after the specified deadline. This does not apply to work submitted late due to absence from school. Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Multiple incidents of late work may result in teacher-student-parent conferences to examine and correct the student's work habits through a behavior or academic contract. Students in grades 6-12 may have their scores reduced by 5% per school day for a 25% maximum reduction (five school days). Late work submitted after the fifth school day will only be accepted at the teacher's discretion. Completing work in a timely manner during the learning unit is essential for academic success. If the score is reduced for late work, the teacher must make a notation in the Infinite Campus comment section of the gradebook to reflect the reduction for late work. Students and parents should refer to the teacher's course syllabus for specific late work procedures.

Make-up Work

Students are expected to make-up assignments and assessments that were missed due to absence from school. Students are responsible for asking teachers for the make-up work upon returning to class. Make-up work should be completed by the student within the time specified by the teacher. Teachers should provide reasonable timelines for completing make-up work. Generally, such work should be completed within 5 days of returning to school. A student should not be required to take a quiz or test on their first day back at school if the assessment was first announced during their absence. Graded assignments should be scored to accurately reflect the level of mastery of standards.

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Homework

If homework is assigned, it will be standards-based, provide an opportunity for independent practice, and be relevant to what students are currently learning. Students will receive feedback for any homework assignment they complete, but homework is not to be graded.

Relearn & Reassess (R&R Procedures)

For grades 4-12, after any major assessment, students should have the opportunity to submit a relearning plan for parent and teacher approval. Upon satisfactory completion of the plan, as determined by the teacher, students should be given a minimum of one opportunity to be reassessed. Students scoring below 70 on assessments are expected to complete a relearning plan unless exempted with parent approval. Teachers have discretion to determine if R&R opportunities will be given for **minor assessment**.

AI Guidance

The Student Code of Conduct, Rule 1(A)(t), states that no student shall cheat, alter records, plagiarize, receive unauthorized assistance, or assist another in any type of academic dishonesty. The unauthorized or improper use of an artificial intelligence (AI) program constitutes academic dishonesty.

Behavior & Management Plan

Goals
Teacher goals <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To be consistent and fair2. Model positive responses, interactions, and behavior3. Avoid sarcasm and demonstrate respect and empathy for students4. Deescalate conflicts quickly5. Enforce consequences (but also practice leniency and patience) for inappropriate behavior
Student goals <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Follow and respect classroom rules, procedures, routines2. Become familiar with student policies, grading policies, and behavior management policies3. Respect consequences for inappropriate behavior, endeavoring to self-correct4. Take responsibility for self-regulating behavior5. Submit assignments on time

Examples of Minor Behavior Problems

- Excessive talking/minor disruptions/teasing
- Out of seat without permission
- Being generally too silly or loud/unsafe play (rough housing)
- Failure to be in assigned location
- Digital citizenship violation

COURSE OF ACTION

***School wide discipline plan will be strictly enforced. (A copy is attached to the syllabus.)

Examples of Major Behavior Problem

Aggressive/excessive profanity or language

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Fighting/bullying

Refusal to comply with classroom rules/refusal of authority/destruction of school or personal property

Dress code (strictly enforced)

Threatening behavior and language

Racial ethnic discrimination

Academic cheating/ inappropriate use of internet

COURSE OF ACTION

*** Call for an administrator (1st offense)

CELL PHONES

Cell phones are not permitted in class, per school policy, and should not be seen nor heard. CELL PHONE POLICY RULE 16 will be strictly enforced. A copy of the policy attached is to the syllabus.

TRANSPORTATION

Any changes in transportation MUST be documented in writing. Verbal and text messages from parents/guardians will not be accepted – NO EXCEPTIONS. Students will not be allowed to contact parents/guardians to verify transportation changes – a note or email from the parent or guardian must be provided to the homeroom teacher before dismissal.

Classroom Procedures

This is the general routine I plan to follow every day. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with this routine.

- I will stand outside door (ENTER DOOR) to greet students.
- Students must NEATLY place bookbags in designated area.
- Students are required to sit in assigned seats.
- I will take attendance.
 - Homeroom: students will complete iReady lessons during this period.
- Review standards and learning goals
- Warmup activity
- Instruction/class work time
- Collect assignments 10 minutes prior to end of class. Put complete/incomplete assignments in appropriate grade level folder provided. NO STUDENTS SHOULD TAKE WORK HOME unless allowed by students.
- Line up class and walk class to next class. (HALLWAY EXPECTATIONS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED)

Classroom Expectations

Classroom rules are posted in visible areas of the classroom. Students are required to observe classroom rules daily. The overarching expectation in this class is RESPECT. The cell phone (Rule 16) and devices policies will be strictly enforced. A copy of the policy has been attached to the syllabus. The student dress code and code of conduct will be strictly enforced.

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1. Be on time and ready to learn. Set high expectations and put forth your best effort every day.
2. Respect yourself, the teacher & others.
3. Be prepared for class each day and submit all assignments.
4. Adhere to all policies, rules, and regulations outlined in the student handbook.
5. Pay attention, participate, and ask questions.
6. Follow directions when given to preserve a positive learning environment.
7. Take responsibility for your actions.
8. Tutt bathroom and hall policies will be strictly enforced

Course Materials

Lined paper Pencils Writing journals Canvas Google Sites StoryBoardThat Canva.com
Word 365 Various reading materials School assigned chromebook Educational learning apps

Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further guidance on Richmond County School System's policies and procedures.

Contact email: EllisAm@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us

Tutt Middle School Phone Number: 706-737-7288

Please sign and return this portion of the syllabus to affirm that you have reviewed this document:

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Phone Number: _____ Email: _____