



Our Lady's School
Junior High
English Language Arts Syllabus
Grade 8
Ms. Jaime

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Welcome to a new school year! I am thrilled to be your teacher and have planned many exciting and enriching activities for our classroom community. I have high expectations and believe each and every one of you is capable of being and doing your best.

This year we will:

- read and analyze various fiction and non-fiction books, essays, articles and short stories throughout the year.
- work on reading comprehension, literary response and analysis.
- study various types of poetry as well as memorize poems.
- work on vocabulary development.
- study the writing process and various writing strategies
- write different types of compositions such as narrative, expository, persuasive, research reports and literary responses.
- discuss and study written and oral English language conventions.
- work on listening and speaking strategies as well as speaking applications.

Grading Scale

90-100 A

80-89 B

70-79 C

60-69 D

59 and below F

40% of grade – assessments (includes vocabulary, literature, grammar and ICE)

20% of grade – assignments

20% of grade – projects

20% of grade – participation

Assessment re-take Policy: If a student scores under a 59% or lower on an assessment, the student, not the parent, will need to speak with me within 5 days of getting the test back to discuss options for improving their score. The highest score a student can receive is a 70% after a retake.

Expectations for Learning:

Absences: When you return from an absence, it is your responsibility to make up the work you missed. Always copy down missed assignments from the website class calendar, assignment board or from one of your classmates. Make sure you write “absent” at the top of the assignment/work on the days you were gone. Turn in assignments that were due into the appropriate class basket.

Missed Assignments: a) Worksheet/handouts- pick up missed paperwork from the extra copies basket. b) Notes- borrow and copy it from one of your classmates on your own time. c) Assessments- you have 5 days from the day you come back to arrange a time to make it up with me before or after school. If you know ahead of time that you are going to be absent for an extended period, please give me at least 1 week notice to schedule an appropriate make-up test.

Late Work: If you do not turn in an assignment on time, the highest grade you can receive on the assignment will drop one letter grade for each day it is late. If you have a late assignment that you have to turn in, write “late” on the assignment and turn it into the appropriate class basket.

Classroom Expectations: 1. Be ready to learn something new every day. 2. Be respectful to yourself, your classmates, personal property and that of others, and to the process of your education. 3. Try your best. 4. Come to class with all required supplies. 5. Follow directions in a respectful and timely fashion. 6. Use age appropriate behavior and language. 7. Use an appropriate tone of voice. 8. Plagiarism is not tolerated.

Classroom Procedures: 1. Walk quietly in and out of class. Greet your teacher with a handshake or eye contact and a hello. Begin work on daily bell ringer or free writing activity. 2. Homework will be turned in at beginning of class. 3. No food in class, water bottles (filled only with water) are acceptable. 4. Please, no gum; mints are fine. 5. Use restroom and water fountain during appropriate times. 6. Absolutely no personal electronics in class unless approved by teacher. 7. Non-verbal cue of ‘five’ in the air...still feet, quiet hands, closed mouth, open ears and eyes on the speaker.

ELA Assignment Expectations: 1. Everything you submit should be in MLA format unless otherwise expressed by the teacher. 2. Write neatly; illegible sloppy work will be sent back to you to ‘re-do.’ However, the majority of our work is typed. 3. Try your best. 4. Ask clarifying questions about assignments. 5. Please communicate with me via email anytime something comes up and it may interfere with completion of an assignment or you have concerns about a forthcoming assessment.

Assessments: 1. The classroom “BUZZ WORDS” wall will include vocabulary words of the week for each grade. Students are to study these words every night in preparation for weekly vocabulary assessments. If students vocalize that they have no homework, I encourage parents to quiz them on their vocabulary words of the week. 2. Book comprehension assessments as well as ICE (in class essay) will be a part of our typical routine. 3. Grammar assessments through No Red Ink will be utilized throughout the school year.

Group Rules: 1. You are responsible for your own work and behavior. 2. You must be willing to help any group member who asks. 3. You may ask the teacher for help only when everyone in your group has the same question.

ELA Class Routine: 1. Enter the room quietly after shaking the teacher’s hand and sit in your assigned seat. 2. Work on the daily bell ringer or free writing activity/prompt. 3. Go over/review your homework. 4. Be attentive to daily objective, lecture, guiding directions, peer questions and responses. 5. Copy homework assignment onto your agenda and utilize Google Classroom for up to date information regarding all class activities. 6. At the end of class, you may pack up 1 minute before the end of the period, sit quietly in your seat until your teacher instructs students to line up.

Please remove the bottom portion of this form and return to your teacher by Friday September 8, 2017

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Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____