

**Course Expectations**  
**Mrs. K. Meyers**  
**Seventh Grade Accelerated Reading**

**I. COURSE SCOPE AND GOALS:**

This one year required course reinforces the development of strategic reading behaviors at an accelerated level. This course emphasizes an interactive approach in which students construct meaning from text. The course focus is on students utilizing vocabulary, thought processes, and strategies to become independent readers and learners.

**Course Goals:**

1. To utilize the reading process as a foundation for learning.
2. To know and use word analysis skills and strategies to strengthen vocabulary and increase comprehension.
3. To read to understand, interpret, and analyze literature (fiction).
4. To read to understand, interpret, and analyze informational text (nonfiction).
5. To practice strategic study/learning behaviors.
6. To apply effective information acquisition and research strategies.
7. To provide appropriate instruction for students who demonstrate weaknesses or discrepancies in reading.
8. To develop independent learners who read for information as well as enjoyment.
9. To build respect and tolerance for the ideas of diversity by reading a wide variety of multicultural literature.
10. To develop the love of reading as a lifetime skill.

**II. PRE REQUISITES**

Students will be working at an accelerated level which requires higher level thinking skills based on Bloom's Taxonomy.

**III. PRE-ASSESSMENTS**

Each student will take the Degree of Reading Power Test, ( D.R.P.), silent reading comprehension assessment, and a syllabus based pretest during the first several weeks of classes to determine areas requiring improvement and strengths in alignment with the Clark County School District Reading 7 Course Syllabus.

**IV. POST-ASSESSMENTS**

Students will take a syllabus based post-assessment, a silent reading comprehension assessment and the Degree of Reading Power Test (D.R.P.) to determine individual growth in course content, accomplishment of individual growth with regard to performance objectives, and strengths and weaknesses of the teaching-learning process. Students will take a quarterly assessment in order to measure progress for objectives introduced during each quarter in alignment with Nevada state standards.

**V. COURSE ACTIVITIES**

**A. Testing**

The teacher will administer tests and quizzes throughout the course of study to determine the individual student's development as well as the effectiveness of the teaching strategies/methodologies. A semester exam will be given at the end of each semester. The semester exam will count for no more than 20% of the final semester grade.

## B. Assignments

Assignments will be assigned throughout the week in accordance with the Bob Miller Middle School's homework policy. English, reading, earth science and math will assign 20 minutes of homework Monday-Thursday. All assignments are due on time. Students are expected to work in class on assignments when time is allowed. Papers should be neat and legible. Papers without names will be discarded at the end of the quarter. Every student is expected to do his/her own work. Any students sharing work will receive a zero, unless it is a cooperative learning assignment and their effort is evident.

## C. Make-up Work (CCSD REG.5113):

After any absence, a secondary **student** is required to **initiate** contact with the teacher(s) to obtain appropriate make up work within three (3) school days immediately following the absence. Once contact has been made with the teacher(s), specific make up work must be completed and returned to the teacher(s) within a reasonable length of time, to be determined by the teacher and communicated to the student/parent or legal guardian. The make up work must be returned to the teacher(s) by the specified due date if it is to be acknowledged. Students shall be allowed a minimum of three (3) days to complete make up work. Explanations and/or help are available at the teacher's scheduled availability times, NOT during the class period. Students who are absent, **must** have all make-up work in by the 5th day after returning.

## D. Extra Credit:

Extra credit **may** be built into some assignments. Extra credit **may** be offered periodically.

## E. Homework Policy

Homework will be assigned Monday through Thursday. It is expected that students turn in all homework **on time** and **complete**. Students will be deducted for late, inaccurate, illegible, and incomplete homework.

## F. Late Work

Late work is reduced to 75% for one day 50% the second day and 0% thereafter. However, late assignments need to be completed for the review of information and acquisition of knowledge for future assignments or assessments. The late policy starts on the day the assignment is given.

## G. Long-Term Assignments

Long-term assignments are designed to enhance learning and help students become organized, accountable, and increase time management skills. Students are expected to complete all long-term assignments according to the time frame the teacher has designed and are responsible for turning each portion in **on time with no exceptions!** Students who are absent on the day a long-term assignment is due, must turn that assignment in the day they return to school.

## H. Academic Dishonesty

If students are found guilty of academic dishonesty (cheating), the teacher will collect the assignment, mark a zero for the work and notify the parent of the consequences. This includes work copied from a student or given to another student to copy. A second offense of cheating or continued academic dishonesty may result in a notice of required parent conference at which time future consequences will be discussed. Academic dishonesty will also result in an automatic N or U in citizenship.

## I. Across the Curriculum Activities:

1. Writing Process--Students will put into practice writing techniques, which they have developed in their English class. The teacher will include writing assignments and essay questions on exams. Students are expected to respond both orally and in writing using standard grammar and complete sentences.
2. Technology-- Students will be required to complete computer generated assignments when

appropriate.

3. Learning/Reading Strategies--Two-column notes, vocabulary note cards, and other strategies will be used extensively.
4. Problem-solving Strategies-- Strategies will be employed by students as presented by the teacher.
5. Organization Skills--Students will be required to keep an organized notebook.

## VI. EVALUATION

- A. Student grades will be earned through:
1. Semester Exams and Test: One exam per semester will constitute 20% of the grade. Final exam is on overall computation of each portion of the test.
  2. Classroom assignments will constitute 30% of the grade.
  3. Long-term assignments and research will constitute 30% of the grade.
  4. Homework assignments will constitute 20% of the grade.
  5. Classroom tests and quizzes will constitute 20% of the grade.
  6. Participation is a daily concern in the educational process. Absenteeism will have a negative impact on the student's grade. Those who are absent are responsible to make-up all work **within 5 days** of their return to school. No work will be accepted after that date.
  7. Extra Credit **may** be offered throughout the school year.
- B. Letter grades represent the following:
- |    |             |               |
|----|-------------|---------------|
| A= | 100% - 90%  | Excellent     |
| B= | 89% - 80%   | Above average |
| C= | 79% - 70%   | Average       |
| D= | 69% - 60%   | Below average |
| F= | Below - 59% | Failing       |
- C. Students will be required to provide feedback on grade and academic progress to their parents on a weekly basis. They will do this in by printing up an InTouch grade print out and having it signed each week by their parent or guardian. This will be due each Friday. **No late InTouch print outs will be accepted.** This is an ongoing assignment and every student needs to be responsible to remember to turn it in each Friday.
- D. Grades can be accessed through the internet via the InTouch system. Grades will be updated weekly and printed out to turn in.

## VII. BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

- Citizenship Grades** - Citizenship grades will be based on a student's ability to follow the classroom procedures and effectively turn their assignments in. The students are expected to:
- \* come to class prepared and ready to learn.
  - \* show respect to others and the learning environment. ( No excessive talking/ insubordination or horseplay.)
  - \* respect all school rules and district policies.
  - \* have homework and assignments ready.
  - \* **READ!**

Infractions of these expectations may result in the lowering of a student's citizenship grade.

- O (Outstanding)** The student is always prepared for class, actively participates in class activities and is a positive influence on other students. Students who have 0-2 missing assignments.
- S (Satisfactory)** The student is generally prepared for class, frequently participates in class activities and does not infringe on the rights of others. Students who have 3-6 missing assignments.
- N (Needs Improvement)** The student is often unprepared for class, exhibits behavior that regularly interferes with other students' learning, and does not follow classroom rules. Students who have 7-9 missing assignments.
- U (Unsatisfactory)** The student is frequently unprepared for class, fails to participate in class activities, exhibits behavior that interferes with other students' learning, and does not follow school and/or classroom rules. Students who have 10 or more missing assignments

**Progressive Discipline Policy** - If rules are violated, the following steps will occur:

- \* Conference with student and verbal warning
- \* Parent Contact
- \* Counselors referral
- \* Deans referral

\*Major infractions can result in an immediate dean referral. These infractions can result in an automatic unsatisfactory mark in citizenship.

## **VIII. GENERAL INFORMATION**

- \* Tardies - Students more than 1/2 hour tardy will be marked absent. The school tardy policy will be followed for all students that are tardy to class. All students need to be in class on time. Students are considered tardy when both feet are not in the classroom when the bell rings.
- \* Restroom - Students should use their time between classes to go to the restroom.
- \* Students are expected to respect the school property and other students' personal property.

## **IX. REQUIRED SUPPLIES**

\* (1) composition book

\* (1) 2 pocket portfolio (folder) with the 3 brads to hold paper - solid color only!

1st period - red

2nd period - green

3rd period - yellow

4th period - purple

5th period - blue

(3) dividers with tabs labeled; Weekly Grades, Classwork, Vocabulary  
different colored highlighters (3-5)

red, black, and blue ink pens (red is for correcting) (**no gel pens**)

white out tape

pencils

binder

loose leaf paper

colored pencils

glue stick

scissors

ruler

optional:

Each period will be assigned an item that is \$1.00 or less to bring in for the year.

chocolate for the teacher ;) )

## **X. CONTACT INFORMATION**

It is recommended that you contact the teacher through email. To reach me through the internet, go to <http://www.CCSD.net/schools/miller/> and access the schoolnotes.com for specific teacher website information. Click on my last name to create an email. This is the best way to communicate quickly.

In order to reach me via the phone, call Bob Miller Middle School at 799-2260 and your call will be returned within a 24 hour period either before or after school hours. I am available from 7:30 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

## **XI. SIGN - OFF FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS**

AFTER READING THE COURSE EXPECTATIONS, PLEASE FILL OUT AND SIGN THE ATTACHED SHEET. THIS VERIFIES THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE READ THE COURSE EXPECTATIONS. THIS SHEET ALSO GIVES ME THE INFORMATION THAT WOULD BE NECESSARY SHOULD I NEED TO CONTACT THE PARENT(S) DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR. **\*\*PLEASE KEEP THE COURSE EXPECTANCY SHEET. EACH STUDENT SHOULD KEEP THIS IN THE HANDOUT SECTION OF READING IN HIS/HER NOTEBOOK.**

Name (First and last) \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the course expectations for Mrs. Meyers' **Accelerated Reading** class.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent name (please print)                      Home phone                      Best time to contact

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature                      Work phone                      Best time to contact

\_\_\_\_\_  
Complete address (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent name (please print)                      Home phone                      Best time to contact

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature                      Work phone                      Best time to contact

\_\_\_\_\_  
Complete address (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address of parent or guardian (please print neatly)                      Student's Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature                      Date

**I have read and understand the academic dishonesty and homework / make-up work policies.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature                      Date