

Course Expectations
7th Grade English
Ms. Wooten
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Course Scope:

This course will expand and enrich students' writing abilities by exposing students to challenging prompts and topics which train students to develop higher level thinking skills. Nevada State Analytic Scoring Traits (IOVC) will be implemented in all writing assignments to develop and improve students' ideas, organization, voice and conventions. All lessons will relate to the Nevada State English Language Arts Standards. Grammar and mechanics of writing will be taught as essential elements of writing within the Shurley Method program. Selections from literature will be used as models of writing as means of developing and applying thinking skills.

Course Goals:

- To expose students to a solid foundation of grammar using the Shurley Method program.
- To develop the fundamentals of writing as a process.
- To practice writing for a variety of purposes and audiences.
- To recognize models of quality writing.
- To apply principals of standard English usage and agreement in speaking and writing.
- To employ the common terminology needed to discuss correct usage, mechanics, and writing style.
- To use various types of sentences correctly and effectively in order to alter style.
- To expand vocabulary and increase spelling proficiency.
- To expand students' knowledge of various literary genres.
- To reinforce students' use of literary terminology.
- To read works of literature as a springboard to writing.
- To develop research skills and strategies.
- To develop speaking and listening skills.
- To respond respectfully to others.
- To apply students' knowledge of standard English, grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, and spelling in writing.
- To develop an understanding of good character and ethics by responding to a wide variety of written and oral communication.
- To practice effective speaking and listening skills.

Parent communication:

Open communication between the home and school is vital to a child's academic and behavioral success in school. Ensuring that parents are informed about their child's academic and behavior achievement is critical. At Miller, we encourage parents to plan an active role in their child's educational journey. Although teachers have access to a telephone in their classrooms, they are unable to receive calls during the instructional day. The best way to contact me is through e-mail. Please feel free to

e-mail me at ANY time! lmwooten@interact.ccsd.net Although it is expected that parents check Parentlink to obtain grades, I will be sending home a grade print-out periodically that needs to be returned to me with a parent signature.

Course Activities:

The teacher will administer tests and quizzes throughout the course of study to determine individual student development as well as the effectiveness of teaching strategies and methodologies. Tests will be given weekly and quizzes can be given at any time. A semester exam will be given at the end of each semester and will count for 20% of the final semester grade. Other activities will include the writing process, spelling, and the Shurley Method as a means to learn grammar skills.

Warm-Ups:

The purpose of Warm-Up activities is to provide work for students to complete independently when they enter the classroom. Teachers utilize this time to take attendance and complete other "housekeeping" duties. Warm-ups should take no more than five-eight minutes to complete. Warm-ups may include journal writing and grammar skills including conventions and spelling. Students may be required to finish the warm-ups for homework if not completed during class. Students may be tested on Warm-up material.

Assignments:

It is very important for students complete all assignments (homework & class work). The completion of homework/class work benefits a child's learning by reinforcing instruction. It also enables the teachers to provide feedback and identify areas for re-teaching.

Homework is due the day after it is assigned, unless a future date is given. Students will be provided the opportunity to make-up assignments if they have been absent. Assignments will be given throughout the week in accordance with the Bob Miller Middle School's homework policy.

Late Work:

It is expected that work be turned in on time! Late work will be penalized!

- Assignments will receive a deduction of 10% per day up until 5 days.
- Assignments more than 5 days late will not be accepted.

*****Long-range assignments (assignments that are given more than one day to complete) WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED LATE!

No-Name Papers:

It is expected that every student write the correct Bob Miller heading on every assignment turned in. If a student forgets to write their heading, the assignment will not be scored. The no-name paper will be placed on a board labeled "No-Names" and it is the student's responsibility to claim their no-name paper before or after school to earn credit. The teacher may deduct points from the score.

Bob Miller Heading:

Student's full name

Class Period

Date

Teacher

Assignment title

Missing assignments and absent work:

Missing assignments will receive a 0% and will be averaged into the student's grades. If a student is absent, they will receive a 0% in the grade book until the missing work is turned in. Under the CCSD policy, any student who misses an assignment due to an excused absence will be allowed three days to submit missing assignments. Upon returning from an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the teacher for the make-up work. Failure to turn in absent work in a timely manner will result in a 0%.

Student Agenda

Every student is provided a Miller agenda. It is expected that students write the daily objective and homework for each subject. Agendas may be checked periodically for a grade.

Binders

Students are required to keep their papers for each subject in a large 3-ring binder. It is recommended that students purchase colored tabs for organization.

Tab labels for English:

- Homework
- Notes
- Warm-ups
- Hand-outs

Grading:

The grading scale is as follows:

A=90-100% B=80-89% C=70-79% D=60-69% F=59%

Weights: Tests and Quizzes=20%

Class work/Homework=40%

Writing assignments =40%

Extra Credit

Extra credit will not be given on an individual basis.

Citizenship:

Good citizenship requires a positive attitude, cooperation, and responsibility in the classroom. Promptness, participation, good work habits, and respect for others will be utilized to determine each student's quarterly citizenship grade.

O=Outstanding

S=Satisfactory

N=Needs Improvement

U=Unsatisfactory

Opportunity Period:

Opportunity period is a designated time for students to meet with their teachers to get extra help. Opportunity period is before and after school (7:30-7:52AM and 2:15-2:35PM) unless the teacher has a parent conference or staff meeting.

Please check with your teacher first!

Suggested Materials for English: ***Please replenish school supplies as needed!*

- School planner (will be provided by the school)
- 1 Large Binder (will be used for every class)
- Divider tabs for each subject (at least 5 per subject)
- Composition notebook for English (other teachers may require a separate composition book)
- Loose-leaf (wide-ruled) notebook paper (3 pks)
- At least 2 blue ink pens
- At least 2 green ink pens
- At least 2 red ink pens
- At least 2 black pens
- Highlighters (green, pink, blue, and green)
- At least 2 pencils
- Novel (chapter book) to read (ALWAYS bring to class!)
- Zipper/binder pouch for pencils and pens
- Mini pencil sharpener with lid
- Jump drive or memory stick to save computer projects on
- Chocolate for the teacher (tee hee)

Optional, but really needed in the classroom:

1 box of Kleenex

Baby wipes

Baggies (quart size)

(Thank you in advance for your contribution to the classroom!)

Please print out the following page, sign, and return to Mrs. Stellavato as soon as possible. If your computer won't print, please write the information from the next page on a sheet of paper and turn it in.

Thanks!

Ms. Wooten

Please sign and return this sheet!

Dear parents,

Please read the above information with your child and sign this page indicating that you have read and understand Ms. Wooten's course expectations. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thanks for your time!

Ms. Wooten

***Period: _____

Date: _____

Print Student's Name: _____

Student's Signature: _____

Print Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Parent's E-Mail address: _____

(This is the easiest way for me to contact you, so thank you for sharing your information)

Home phone Number: _____

Cell: _____