



## **LANGUAGE ARTS COURSE SYLLABUS**

2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

INSTRUCTOR: Ms. Que Jacobs

TEAM: Nationals

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Phone Number: 478-542-2240

Welcome to 7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts! I'm excited about the new school year, and hope you are too. I want this to be a successful school year for you, so it is important for you to know and understand the rules, procedures, and expectations for the classroom. Please always keep this sheet in your notebook in case you need to refer back to it during the year. I look forward to getting to know you and feel confident that this is going to be a great year! The guidelines and procedures for this year are as follows:

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts program at Huntington Middle School is aligned with the Georgia Standards of Excellence. Students will work to master standards in all strands of the English/Language Arts curriculum: reading, writing, grammar conventions, listening, speaking, and viewing. Students will actively participate in a wide assortment of genres of literature, grammar and usage conventions, vocabulary development, and formal/informal forms of writing.

Expectations for listening, speaking, and viewing behavior will be taught and modeled. Opportunities to practice these skills will include whole-class and small-group activities, projects, oral presentations, student-teacher conferences, and round-table discussions. Strategic use of films and videos will also enrich cultural and media literacy.

Below you will find the units of study for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts:

<b>Yearly Units (*Dates are tentative)</b>		
Rituals & Routines Mini Unit	2 weeks	Aug 5-16
Unit 2: Take Control	7 weeks	Aug 19-Oct 4
Craft Moves Mini Unit	2 weeks	Oct 15-28
Unit 3: Terror and Wonder	7 weeks	Oct 29-Dec 17
Rituals & Routines Mini Unit	2 weeks	Jan 7-21
Unit 4: Inspired by Nature	7 weeks	Jan 22-Mar 11
GMAS Prep Mini Unit	2 weeks	Mar 12-25
Unit 6: Change Agents	7 weeks	Mar 26-May 14

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

- 3 Ring Binder (2-inch)
- 2 Composition notebooks
- Loose leaf notebook paper
- Pencils and blue/black ink pen
- Post It Notes
- Independent reading book-DAILY

\*It is good to have a dictionary at home for vocabulary assignments.

**GRADING:** The following percentages will be used when assigning grades for this

course:

40%	Major
30%	Minor
20%	Daily
10%	Final

**CANVAS**

In the event you are absent, please check CANVAS for daily agenda for tasks/assignments. All class assignments will be uploaded there. Access to the online textbook is also in HMH Ed on the Dashboard.

**MAKE-UP WORK:** When a student is absent from class, it is the student's responsibility to collect all make-up work for the days absent. Make-up work must be completed within **three (3)** days of the absence. Failure to do so will result in a zero (0).

**MAKE-UP WORK PROTOCOL:** Instructional time is extremely important. We have many standardized tests this year that directly relate to the information learned in this class. Time is of the essence! Therefore, you need to check CANVAS to obtain daily assignments when absent or request work immediately upon returning to class and may need to stay after school with me to complete the assignment. There is no exception to this rule.

**SCHOOLMESSENGER:** Homework will be assigned to reinforce skills taught. Late work will be penalized daily. Please place all homework assignments in your notebooks daily. Your notebook should be brought to class every day since it may also be used to record homework. Your notebook will be considered part of your required classroom materials. If you misplace or forget to write down your homework assignment(s), please check the School Messenger App to obtain those assignments. **Login information will be forthcoming.**

**CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:** All students are expected to enter the classroom each day with a positive attitude and follow the outlined classroom rules and procedures. Students upon entering should immediately begin the assigned **Do Now** task. Students must additionally follow all rules stated in the HMS Handbook.

**CLASSROOM RULES:**

1. **Be Polite** - Be nice or neutral to everyone. Swearing, teasing, talking back and bullying will **NOT** be tolerated. Respect yourself, your classmates, your teacher, and your classroom. Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
2. **Be Compliant** -No cell phones, IPODS, or any other electronic device will be used during class. All electronic devices must be powered off and placed inside the locker. Unauthorized use of such devices will result in it being confiscated and a Level 3 Office Referral will be issued.
3. **Be Prompt** -Be on time, enter the classroom quietly, immediately go to your seat, start on the assigned **Do Now** task and prepare to turn in and/or discuss homework – if so instructed.
4. **Be Prepared** -Bring all required materials, homework, and arrive within dress code guidelines.
5. **Be Productive** -Maximize learning time by staying on task, following directions, and remaining seated unless you've been given permission to get up.
6. **Be Patient** -Wait respectfully and calmly for your turn, do not complain. Listen and stay seated when someone is talking.

**CLASSROOM PROCEDURES:**

1. Enter the class quietly and begin the Do Now assignment/task.
2. When you have a question, raise your hand, and wait to be recognized.
3. Be respectful of everyone's thoughts, responses, and personal belongings.
4. Submit ALL assignments to the designated area.
5. Keep your work area neat and clean.
6. Follow directions regarding quiet and orderly dismissal.

**HMS CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:**

1. Enter and Exit Quietly
2. Be Prepared-Bring supplies daily.
3. Follow Daily Agenda
4. Demonstrate STRONG Work Ethics
5. Exhibit POSITIVE and RESPECTFUL Behaviors

**TECHNOLOGY:**

1. I agree to take care of all devices in my possession.
2. I will not throw, drop, or damage it in any way.
3. I will not give the device to another student for his/her use.
4. I will use the device in the appropriate manner.
5. I will only visit appropriate websites for learning. I will adhere to all guidelines, policies, and procedures.

**\*The choices you make will result in a positive or negative consequence.**

Parent(s) please remember to download the School Messenger App for your mobile phone and/or computer so that you will be able to receive homework/test and other HMS announcements. If you used the App last school term you must put in your child's team current password to receive updated information. **Login information will be forthcoming.**

**Please sign and return this sheet only.**

**You may keep the syllabus for your reference.**

My child and I have read and understand the syllabus for Language Arts to include classroom expectations and guidelines for **Ms. Jacobs' Language Arts Class**. We have discussed the information and will accept and follow the rules and procedures outlined.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

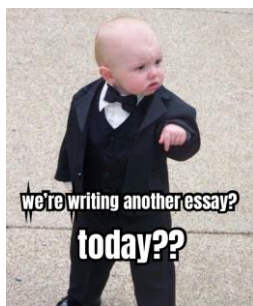
Please include a current daytime/evening phone number(s) and email address so I will be able to stay in contact.

Parent's name \_\_\_\_\_

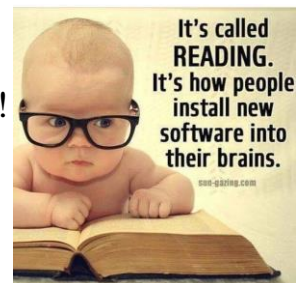
Home phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact number \_\_\_\_\_  
Work or Cell

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
Work or home?



Reading and Writing Are Essential to Learning!!!



### **Class Library and Book Club Library Contract**

\*taken from Kelly Gallaher's Reading Reasons

Reading is a central focus in my classroom. Reading is a skill. The only way to get better at reading is to read – this holds true for excellent readers as well as reluctant readers. My goal is for you to read one million words this semester. For the average student, two million words a year translates to forty minutes of reading every day. I will do my best to motivate your child to read academically as well as for fun. Some of the reading will be assigned, but your student will have opportunities to select his or her own books to be read in literature circles and independently.

To help your student reach the one-million-word goal, I have worked hard to develop my own classroom library. This library is available to any student who wants to choose a book to be read recreationally. Furthermore, students have access to the literacy center that hosts 100s of titles for use in literature circles. Research shows that availability of books is a major motivating factor in getting teens to read. Students who are surrounded by books at school and at home read more. Students who read more, read better. I have found that having my own classroom library has dramatically increased the amount of reading my students do.

I want you to know I am sensitive to having appropriate reading material in my classroom library and in the literacy center. That said, what is considered “appropriate” may vary from one parent to another. Some parents do not mind their child reading Stephen King; other parents object to the horror genre. Please be aware that the selections in my classroom library and in the literacy center, just like any other public library or school library, range from elementary-level to university-level reading material. As a parent, I ask you to remain aware throughout the year of the books your student has chosen to read and assist in gauging appropriateness.

Rest assured the books in my classroom library often; others find books elsewhere. ***Any student who checks books out of my library is asked to have a parent or guardian sign below indicating that this classroom library section has been read and is understood.***

Let's get reading!

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I have this section, and my child has permission to check out books from the classroom library.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I would prefer that my child does not have access to the classroom library.

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Parental/Guardian Permission for Book Choice for REQUIRED Reading Assignments**

I believe strongly in giving students choice in reading assignments that are required throughout the year. While students are required to participate in book clubs, I want to give them as much choice as possible as what they will read. According to Ollman (1993), “Real world readers do not wait for a teacher to tell them what to read. They read what interests them, what suits their purpose... When kids define what they care about, they begin to define who they are.” I want to give students the opportunity to build the maturity to do just that. However, I value your involvement in your student's reading. I have listed the most popular choices on my website with a link to information on the books, so you can be better informed. Please select one of the following choices for how you would like to give permission for book selection for REQUIRED reading during this semester:

\_\_\_\_\_ I give permission for my student to read any book he or she chooses throughout the year. I understand by allowing my student the freedom to choose a book, this book may be unique to your child's book club and may not be one the class or teacher has read.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would prefer to give permission to each book as my student chooses them. I know I will have to sign a contract each time my student begins a new book. Additionally, I understand my student will not be able to earn credit for work with the book until the teacher has received the contract.

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_



# TECHNOLOGY CONTRACT

**Huntington Middle School students** must develop the research, information fluency, and technology skills that will allow them to be successful in this digital world, as well as the skills necessary to live safely and ethically. Computer access and access to the Internet, digital communication and collaboration tools, robots, and online learning spaces are critical to teaching these skills. Therefore, it is important for students to respect all Huntington Middle School property and adhere to all policies, procedures, and guidelines set by the teacher/district for the use of technology resources. Failure to adhere to these policies, procedures, and guidelines may result in revocation or restriction of access privileges and /or disciplinary action. **Furthermore, parents/guardians will be held financially responsible for any willful, malicious, or accidental damage to any device.**



## Student Responsibilities and Permission

I agree to take care of all devices while in my possession. I will not throw, drop, or damage it in any way. I will not give the device to another student for his/her use. I will use the device in the appropriate manner. I will only visit appropriate websites for learning. I will adhere to all guidelines, policies, and procedures.

Student Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Parent/Guardian Responsibilities and Permission

I am authorizing the use of technological devices to my child. I understand that all devices are to be used as a tool for learning and that my child will adhere to all guidelines, policies, and procedures. I also understand that I am financially responsible for any willful, malicious, or accidental damage to any device caused by my child. I understand that my child may lose future privileges of any device if it is either misused or damaged.

Parent/Guardian Name (printed) : \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_