**7th Grade Language Arts Syllabus**

***Mrs. Schneider***

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| ***Our Class Website*: *mrsschneid.weebly.com*** |

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Welcome to our 7th grade Language Arts classroom! I cannot wait to start teaching and watching you grow in your creative writing abilities. This year we will cover three major types of writing to be placed in your portfolio: Expressive, Expository, and Persuasive. You will become experts on the writing process and excel on your 6-trait rubrics. Writing is a skill that will take you far in life, so I cannot wait to equip you with confidence in this subject.

Here are the expectations for our Language Arts class:

**Interactive Notebook:**

You will be required to have a 3-subject spiral notebook (college ruled) for the year. We will be using this interactive notebook (I.N.) as a cumulative portfolio of our language skills, so you will be required to carry it with you DAILY. This tool uses both the left and right hemispheres of the brain to help you as a student sort, categorize, and be creative with knowledge you are acquiring. I will post our “Table of Contents” for the I.N. on the class website and in the classroom. You are responsible for keeping track of all assignments and making sure they are on the correct page in order to receive a grade for your work.

**Grades:**

Your grade will be calculated using total points. Each assignment, project, paper, and assessment will have a set number of points. Projects, papers, quizzes, and tests will be worth more points than in-class work or homework. However, your homework and class work leading up to a final paper or test contribute directly to your final success. Weekly e-mails will be sent by Friday updating you and your parent/guardian about your current grade. I will also include important information and dates in these e-mails, so keep an eye out for them.

**Homework & Late Work:**

Since we have a lot of material to cover over the course of the year, I will assign homework frequently. I expect students to complete these assignments and turn them in on their specific due dates. Homework is due at the *beginning of class*. Any time after that, it is considered late. Late work will be penalized 20% off of your score for the first day it is late, and 40% for every day after that. I am a firm believer that responsibility is directly correlated with a successful learning experience, and it is a life skill that will serve you well later on in life.

**Absent:**

When you are unable to attend school due to illness or other personal matters, YOU are responsible for finding out what you have missed. In our classroom there is an “Absent?” crate with 31 folders for 31 days in a month. Whatever date you were gone, that specific folder will hold any handouts/assignments from that date. Also, our class website will have majority of our handouts/assignments posted, as well as an updated Interactive Notebook Table of Contents. Please use these resources to your advantage to stay on track. You may also let me know in advance if you are aware of an upcoming absence and want to stay proactive.

**Communication:**

It is my goal to have positive, efficient, and frequent communication with students and parents. For parents, the best way to communicate with me is through e-mail. If you have a concern, question, or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to getting to know you as students as well as your families.

**Technology:**

You will have access to technology when necessary for typing papers/assignments. However, we do have limited class time to accomplish these tasks. I encourage students to word process as much as possible, but I understand that this isn’t always a realistic expectation for all families. We will discuss the integrity of keeping work original and citing sources appropriately. I have a no tolerance policy for plagiarism, which means you will receive an automatic zero.

**School Rules:**

My expectation is that you as students will follow all school policies covered in the handbook as well as my classroom policies. I will be firm in these policies and report them to the office immediately. Please review the cell phone, dress code, and gum rule especially. Violations of these rules will lead to immediate consequences.

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| **Materials:**  - 3-subject spiral notebook (college ruled)  - 2 different colored highlighters  - rolls of tape  - pencils  - pens  (bright colors are welcome as long as it is readable)  - a positive attitude  **Recommended** (not required):  - zipper pencil pouch to keep supplies in  - colored pencils  - flash drive to save word processed papers |

**\*\*\*By signing our Classroom Contract, you agree to the expectations outlined in this syllabus. \*\*\***