**Language Arts 7 Syllabus
Mrs. Bock**

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Written communication skills are central to learning. Whether in academic life, in the workplace, or in personal life, they offer an advantage in a world in which people must constantly learn new information. In seventh grade, English students will learn about the Writing Process through Six Traits writing with different units focusing on each of the traits. We will continue to discuss how to write an effective paper in the correct format with good sentence and paragraph structure, and cover bibliographies and how to avoid plagiarism. We will also write for different purposes and audiences including Argumentative, Descriptive, Narrative, Expository, and Research. Students will also build writing skills through responding to Journal Prompts in class.

To ensure that students’ writing is understood, they need a working knowledge of language and grammatical structures. The seventh graders will study this through Daily Oral Language sentences and through peer/self editing. They will also engage in a deeper study of particular components of grammar, including sentence structure, parts of speech, and punctuation.

There will be a focus on expanding vocabulary and use of words through Word of the Day. At the end of each week, there will be a Quiz that includes the DOL Sentences and Word of the Day words from each week.

We will also explore a variety of genres of literature. We will focus on using our writing, mentor texts, as well as different novels to help strengthen our reading skills while looking at the different literary elements. We look for similarities and differences between authors themes and writing styles. Students are expected to lead discussions in large and small group settings, and to use and expand upon reading strategies throughout various units. Students are also expected to read outside of class and complete book projects for each quarter (details will be given later).

**Materials Needed Every Day for Class**

* Blue/Black Pen or Pencil
* Red Pen
* 3-Ring binder (used for English and Literature)
* Composition Notebook (will stay in the classroom)
* Assignment Notebook

**Class Expectations**

* Follow School Constitution
* Respect yourself and others around you
* Be Responsible
* Follow Directions
* Turn in your work on time
* Try your best

**Behavior Policy**

One of my classroom expectations in to “Respect yourself and others around you”—basically treat others the way you want to be treated. This also includes the classroom and other people’s things. If a student fails to meet this expectation, there will be an appropriate consequence given. Depending on the severity of the situation, a lunch detention might be served, and/or parents will be contacted via email or phone. If problem behaviors continue, students will be referred to Mr. Marx for further consequences.

We also use Indian Bucks to reward good choices both academically and behaviorally. These are given to each student individually throughout each class during the day. More information about our Indian Bucks program is on the last side of the syllabus.

**Tardy Policy**

If a student is tardy for class without a pass, they will get a warning. If the problem continues, the student will have to come in for lunch detention. During the first couple of weeks, the sixth graders will have some leeway while getting used to the schedule. I do not see this being a big issue since most of the classes are very close together.

**Grading Policy**

I figure out grades using total points. You just take the points earned divided by the points possible to get the total grade. Tests, quizzes, papers, and projects will be worth more points than homework. The grading scale and late work policy is as follows:

**Middle School**

**Grading Scale**

100-95 A

94-93 A-
92-90 B+
89-87 B
86-85 B-
84-83 C+
82-80 C
79-78 C-
77-76 D+
75-72 D
71-70 D-
Below 70 F

**Late Work Policy**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1 Day Late** = Subtract 10% | **3 Days or Later** = The highest possible grade would be a 70%. The assignment will be graded and will be adjusted accordingly. The assignment may be turned in until the end of the quarter. If it is not turned in by then, it will be a zero. |
| **2 Days Late** = Subtract 20% |
| **Late Work Policy**If a student fails to complete an assignment by the beginning of the class on the date it is due, they will begin losing points towards their grades as stated above. If the student continues to get late assignments, they will stay in for RTI time with Mrs. Bock until the work is complete. If late work continues to be an issue, Mrs. Bock will contact home and/or other consequences will be determined on a case by case basis.  |  |

**Make up Work**

 If a student is absent, they will get a form from the middle school teachers saying what they missed in the office. They have the same amount of days absent to turn in their work. For example if the student is absent one day, they have one day to get it in; four days absent would mean four days for makeup. If there is a long project where they received the due date in advance, the project will still be due on the date assigned, unless there are special circumstances. If the student knows that they will gone in advance, please inform the office and the teachers so that we can get the work together for them ahead of time.

**RTI Time**

The middle school teachers have RTI (Response to Intervention) time for those students who are not in good academic standing (“F’s” or “D-’s” in the class, missing assignments, not understanding a concept, etc). This RTI time will help support and assist students who need extra help in their academic classes. RTI time will be on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and/or Fridays during lunch time. The student will check in with the teacher who they have RTI time with, then go grab their lunch, and come back to get extra assistance. When the student returns to good academic standing in the course(s) and gets the ok from the teacher, he/she will return to using that time in the gym and the lunch room.  If they do not improve, they will continue to be in RTI time on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and/or Fridays.

**Extra Credit**

Extra credit will not be given on a student need basis. Students will have the opportunity to earn extra credit at the teacher's discretion. The opportunity will be presented to all students regardless of an individual student's need of such credit.

**PBIS: Indian Bucks Program Information**

Throughout the middle school, we have implemented a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. This program rewards students who are positive in behavior and academics while encouraging other students to also do the same. The program is based on our expectations at school which include respect, kindness, and responsibility. These expectations are reinforced and consistent throughout all school environments including hallways, gym, lunchroom, bathrooms, and classrooms. Your student will be reminded of these expectations during the first days at school, and will be reviewed throughout the school year.

**What are Indian Bucks?**

Indian Bucks are small tickets with $1 and $5 dollar amounts. Students will receive this throughout the year based on behavior and academics. When they receive these, they will be able to choose how to use them.

**How to earn Indian Bucks:**

Students can earn Indian Bucks many different ways. $1 Indian Bucks are for doing a great job, and $5 Indian Bucks are for going above and beyond. The teachers may give students Indian Bucks based on the following expectations or other positive behaviors we observe. Students will not receive a buck if they ask for one. The teacher must write the student’s name on the back of the Indian Buck in order for it to be used. Here are some expectations for earning Indian Bucks

***Positive Behaviors***

* Respecting teachers, staff, and peers
* Respecting materials, equipment, and supplies especially what is not yours
* Respecting the facilities
* Following directions and classroom rules
* Acting in a responsible manner in everything you do
* Practicing safety in regards to yourself and towards others
* Being a positive influence or role model for others
* Being kind and helpful to others

***Positive Academics***

* 95% - 100% on Tests and Quizzes
* No Late Homework for a week
* Being thorough on your assignments
* Actively participate in cooperative groups and classroom discussions
* Coming prepared to class daily
* Working to the best of your ability

**What to do with your Indian Bucks:**

Once a student has earned some Indian Bucks, it is best to keep them in a safe spot. Students can save these up to get different items. **Some** things you can receive with your Indian bucks are:

***1. School Store:***You may buy itemssuch as gum, school supplies, or small games. Prices vary on the item.

 These may be purchased anytime that the store is open.

***2. Raffles:***For one Indian Buck, you get one entry for the raffle. Raffles will include items such as gift

 cards and Stockbridge apparel.

***3. Friday Activities:***These will occur once per month. Price will vary based on the activity. You will not be

 able to attend an event if you have an office referral that same month.

**If you have any other questions regarding PBIS or the Indian Bucks program, please feel free to ask us!**