

7th Grade Enriched Language Arts Syllabus – Mrs. McLaughlin Room 405

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Welcome to 7th grade at Houston Middle School! My name is Jordan McLaughlin, and I will be teaching 7th grade Enriched Language Arts this year. I earned my Bachelor of Science from the University of Mississippi and my Master of Arts in Teaching from the University of Memphis. This is my sixth year teaching and I am very excited about the new school year. I will work very hard to make your child's 7th grade experience a rewarding one.

Attached you will find a Student Information Sheet and I would be grateful if you would take a few minutes from your busy day to complete it. It will help me get to know you and your child, and it will give me up-to-date contact information. I look forward to working with you and your child this year!

Parent/Guardian-Teacher Communication. You are an integral part of your child's success this year and throughout his or her education. It is very important for us to have open lines of communication between home and school. You can contact me any time through the school office at (901) 756-2366 or via email at Jordan.McLaughlin@gmsdk12.org. Email will be the most efficient way of contacting me during the school day. My teacher website is forthcoming and information will be provided soon. (<http://www.gmsdk12.org/McLaughlinJordan.aspx>)

Course Description.

7th Grade Language Arts is broken up into five categories: speaking and listening, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and literature. Students will analyze literature, apply grammatical rules, acquire new vocabulary through root words and context clues, and evaluate literature through writing. Specific state standards for 7th grade can be found at <https://www.tn.gov/education/article/english-language-arts-standards>.

Course Outline.

Q1: *Lyddie* Q3: "Growing up Digital"
Q2: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* Q4: TBA

Daily Supplies. Each student is expected to bring the following supplies to class daily: 1-1.5-inch binder with dividers, notebook paper, red pen, highlighter, and pencils.

Grading. In accordance with district and school policy, students will earn at least two grades per week with a maximum of 20 grades per quarter. Grade values for this course are as follows:

50% Assessments 40% Classwork and Quizzes 10% Homework

Class Procedures. In addition to following class, school, and district rules and policies, students will also commit themselves to the following class procedures:

- *Preparation.* Students will enter the class prepared with all necessary supplies. The first two minutes of class are allocated for this, including the sharpening of pencils.
- *Engagement.* Students will participate fully in class activities and complete assignments in a timely manner.
- *Responsibility.* Students will remain organized and keep track of their academic progress.

Consequences.

1st offense: verbal warning
2nd offense: conduct mark and student behavior log
3rd offense: conduct mark and parent notification (per phone call)
4th offense: conduct mark and detention
5th offense: conduct mark and parent conference
6th offense: conduct mark and office referral
**Severe behavior results in immediate referral to office (ie: physical confrontations between students.)

Absences and Make-Up Work. It is the responsibility of the student to determine what work they have missed due to absences. Upon returning to school, students must check in with their class's absent folder to obtain any missed assignments and to sign up to take any assessments or quizzes that they missed during their absence. This procedure is taught and reinforced daily in the classroom to ensure that all students understand the process. Students are allowed one day for each day of an absence to make up any missed assignments. Assessments and quizzes are made up on Thursday afternoons after school.