

7TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS SYLLABUS

Mrs. Buchholz | Van Hoosen Middle School

WELCOME

Welcome to your seventh grade Language Arts class. I have planned many activities for this school year that I hope will prove to be fun, exciting, and educational. Please take a moment to read through this syllabus to familiarize yourself with the course information.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

We will be using the following text in class this school year: **Holt-McDougall, *Literature, Grade 7***. The textbook website is <http://my.hrw.com>. Students will be given a unique login and password.

According to the Common Core State Standards and the College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Language Arts, each student must demonstrate a level of proficiency in the following areas: reading, writing, speaking and listening, and the mechanics of language such as grammar and punctuation. This course will include a variety of activities that are designed to strengthen each of these skill areas.

Students will read narrative and informational text while analyzing their structure and elements. On page 5, you will see a list of possible novels we will read as well as films we may watch. Parents are asked to review this list and sign their approval for the selections on the "Information Sheet" sent home.

Using the writing process, students will compose various paragraphs as well as a research essay. Students learn and apply comprehension skills, vocabulary skills, and grammar and usage in the context of improving their reading and writing skills.

GRADE-LEVEL EXPECTATIONS

On the following page you will find the classroom expectations I have put in place. In addition to these, it will be expected that you will follow the school behavioral expectations that have been put into place. Please review this plan with your parents.

"When you know better, you do better."

~Maya Angelou

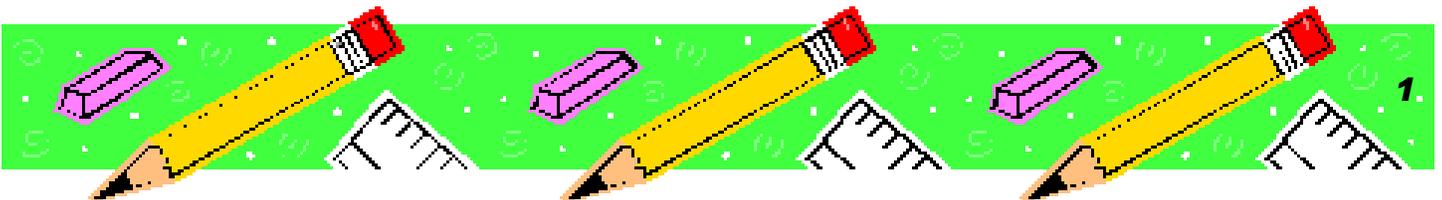
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Class Schedule

Homeroom	7:30 – 7:40
1 st Hour	7:45 – 8:43
2 nd Hour	8:48 – 9:46
3 rd Hour	9:51 – 10:49
4 th Hour (includes lunch)	10:54 – 12:23
5 th Hour	12:28 – 1:25
6 th Hour	1:30 – 2:27

**Signed "Information Sheet
for Mrs. Buchholz" is due
Monday, September 12th**



LATE / ABSENT WORK POLICIES

I believe students should be held accountable for missing work, and late work is highly discouraged.

Assignments not completed on time will be reduced to 50% and recorded as "NHI" in the grade book. Work turned in late will be graded, and the grade will be lowered by 10%.

All missing work will be turned into the *Late Work Bin* when completed. Missing work is due at the end of the marking period it was assigned.

Assignments due on a day when a student is absent are

due the first day the student is back in school. It may be turned into the *Absent Bin*. Absent work will be recorded as "ABS" in the grade book until the work is turned in.

You will be given two days for each day you were absent to complete all missed assignments. Students will have access to all assignments that were completed during the absence. Each class has a designated absent folder located on the back wall cabinet. It is the student's responsibility to check the folder the day he or

she returns to school; this should be done before or after class.

Notices regarding prearranged absences are appreciated. I will do my best to gather materials prior to the absence.

*"Tardiness often robs us opportunity, and the dispatch of our forces."
~Niccolo Machiavelli*

TARDY POLICY

Each student must be in his or her seat when the bell rings, prepared with materials, and ready to learn. Three unexcused tardies will result in an after-school detention.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

I have high expectations of my students, and one of those expectations is that my students will respect the classroom atmosphere I like to maintain. Another expectation is that my students will follow school rules while in my classroom.

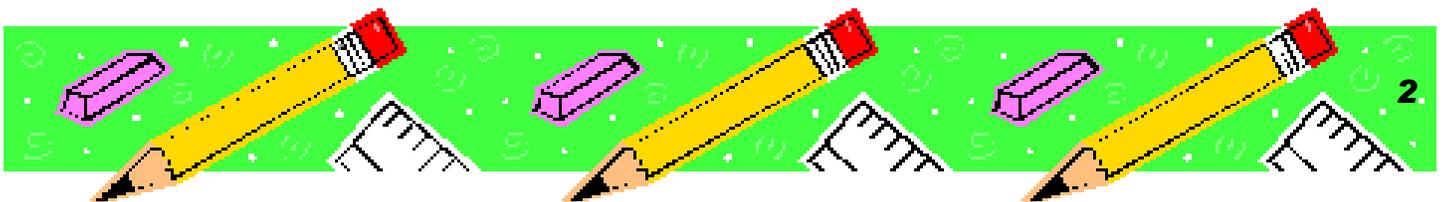
In the event that you choose to break a school rule, you will be given a warning. If changes in behavior are not observed, I will contact home to discuss the issue with a parent or guardian.

An after-school detention may also be required depending on the severity of your actions.

Certain behavior is simply unacceptable. Thus, I reserve the right to deviate from this plan as I see fit.

In turn, I will adhere to the same expectations (listed on page 3). I will also provide a safe, nurturing, and supportive learning environment for you.

You can expect me to have sound knowledge of the subject matter and present materials to you clearly and in an organized way. I will also encourage you to think critically and independently.



Contact Mrs. Buchholz

ebuchholz@rochester.k12.mi.us

Room 134
1339 N. Adams Rd.
Rochester Hills, MI 48306

Email is the preferred method of contact and will ensure the most timely response.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS CONT'D

The following behavior is expected in order to maintain a positive classroom atmosphere:

Always be prepared for success. Please remember that the moment you walk into the classroom you are to be in "learning-mode." You will be required to complete bell work or a journal entry at the beginning of every class period. Begin working on this immediately. If you need to borrow supplies from my stash then do so the moment you come in; do not wait until we have begun class.

"The child's first and most influential teacher is the parent. A child's ideas about education and its significance begin with the parent. Improving the effectiveness of the home as a learning environment is critical to promoting long-term school success."

~ Anonymous

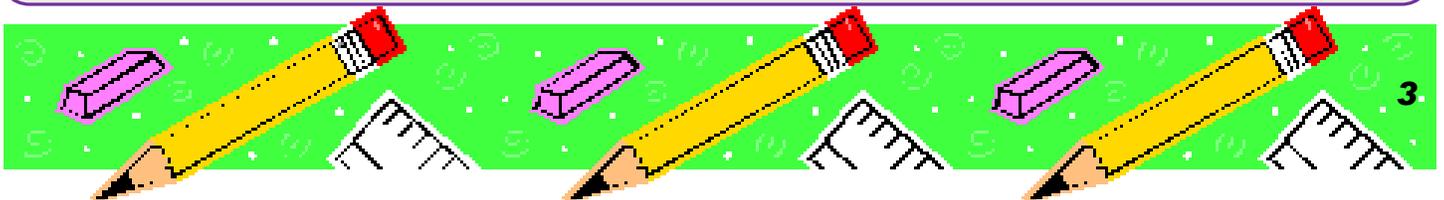
Care for your classmates and their right to an uninterrupted learning environment. If it is necessary for you to leave the classroom, raise your hand and approach me quietly when I acknowledge you. Likewise, if it is necessary for you to enter the classroom after class has started, please do so silently. These courtesies apply to tardiness, excused or otherwise.

Communicate appropriately. Always maintain positive eye contact and positive body language when speaking to each other. Use the proper vocabulary with each other. Never interrupt when someone is speaking, even if they are not speaking directly to you. Listen attentively when someone is speaking (do not talk while someone else is addressing the class, especially me!)

Honesty is the best policy. Honesty is extremely important to me, as it should be to you. Copying another student's answers (with or without their permission), cutting and pasting information from the internet and attempting to pass it off as your own, and having another student complete an assignment for you are all examples of dishonesty. They will not be tolerated. This type of behavior will result in a zero on the assignment.

Be courteous and respectful to one another. You are expected to respect the opinions offered in class although you may disagree with them. If you wish to share your perspective, make sure to do so in a respectful manner. As teacher and students, we will treat each other with respect and dignity.

Bathroom and Drinks: Students will be given 3 passes a quarter. These passes are recorded in the *Student Planner*. If a student does not have his or her planner, he or she will not be allowed to use the restroom or get a drink. Bring a water bottle if you think you will be thirsty!! Emergencies are handled as needed.



ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- **Participation** – You will be expected to participate in all class activities and will earn a grade for doing so.
- **Class Work & Homework** – We will complete several activities in class, but you will be required to complete some work on your own time. Failure to complete these activities will have a negative effect on your overall grade. **Any work that you fail to complete in class is always homework – this includes journal entries!**
- **Journal/Notebook** – You will be required to keep a journal. Each entry will focus on reading and writing.
- **Independent Reading** – You will be required to read a set number of books this school year from various genres. Your journal will be used to record various thoughts about your reading. **You must bring your independent reading novel to class every day!**
- **Tests and Quizzes** – I reserve the right to test you on any material presented in class, assigned for homework, or covered in the textbook. However, you will have advance notices of tests so you may study. Quizzes may be unannounced.
- **Projects** – You will also be assigned projects to complete throughout the year. Rubrics will be given to guide you.
- **Extra Credit** – I do not regularly offer extra credit. Extra credit **will not** be given to “bring up” a grade that has been neglected up until the last moment. If extra credit is offered, know that it is a very special circumstance, and you should take advantage.

MY RCS

The grade book used by Rochester Community Schools is My RCS and is accessible to parents and students. Students and parents are responsible for obtaining and knowing their login information. Grades are updated frequently. Parents are encouraged to check on their student’s progress frequently so that they may identify when their student is having difficulties and be better able to discuss their child’s education with them on a regular basis.

Online Grade Codes:

ABS: Student was absent when assignment was assigned or due. The assignment needs to be turned in.

NHI: Assignment was not handed in when due, or assignment was ABS and never turned in.

REDO: Student was given the opportunity to redo an assignment and was given an appropriate due date.

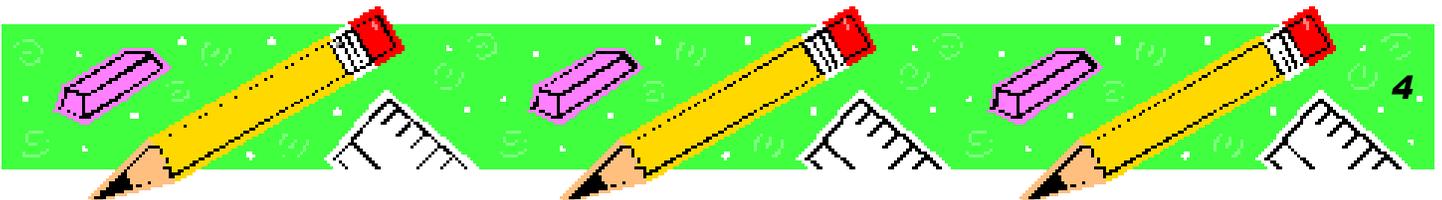
Grades weigh as follows:

10%	Reader’s Workshop, journal writing
40%	Daily Work, and Homework
50%	Tests, Quizzes, Projects, and Writing Assignments



*some assignments may be subject to a higher or lower scale factor, ie a homework assignment that we’ve worked on for a week would be worth two assignments rather than one. This will be noted in MyRCS.

^the student’s participation grade will be assessed throughout the marking period. Students that fail to participate in discussion, activities, or assignments will be reduced at least 10%.



MEDIA SELECTIONS

In order to supplement our studies of plot, literary elements, and genre, we may utilize a variety of print and video resources. The following is a list of video resources used in the past which may or may not be used this year.

A Carol Christmas, Gaiam Entertainment - NR
A Christmas Carol, Disney – PG
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer - NR
Balto, Universal Studios – G
The Hound of Baskervilles, Mpi Home Video – NR
Lindbergh Kidnapping Case, Sony Pictures – NR
The Monsters are due on Maple Street (Twilight Zone), 20th Century Fox - NR

Percy Jackson and the Olympians – The Lightning Thief – PG
The Private Eyes, Henstooth Video – PG
Scooby Doo, Cartoon Network – G
Tom and Huck, Disney – PG
The Westing Game, Hallmark Entertainment - PG



LITERATURE SELECTIONS

Identified below are the literature selections that *may* be used during this course. If you have any questions about these literature selections, please contact me so that we can discuss your concerns. Students will also be reading multiple self-chosen novels throughout the year.

A Christmas Carol*
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
Chasing Vermeer
Death Cloud*
El Guero
The Giver
The Invisible Man*

Charles Dickens
Mark Twain
Blue Balliett
Andrew Lane
E. Boron de Trevino
Lois Lowry
H. G. Wells

The Lightning Thief
Nothing But the Truth*
Out of the Dust
Ten Great Mysteries
The Trial
The Westing Game
Where the Red Fern Grows

Rick Riordan
Avi
Karen Hesse
Edgar Allen Poe
Jennifer Bryant
Ellen Raskin
Wilson Rawls

**Advanced course only*

SUPPLIES

Rochester Community Schools provides all necessary materials and supplies for curricular classes. Parents who wish to supplement these materials for their students may consider purchasing the following items.



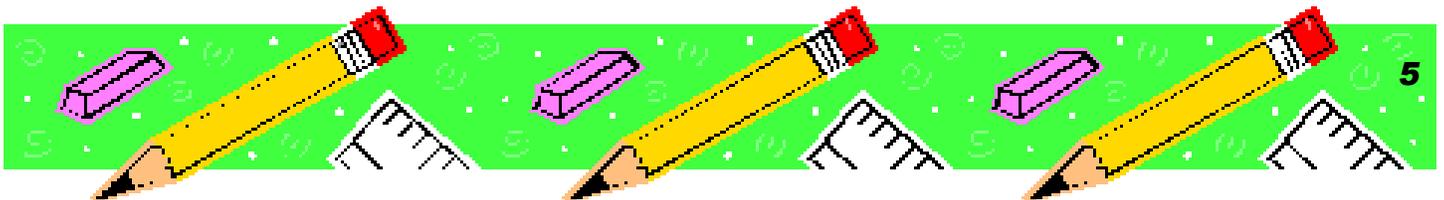
It is necessary for students to have these items in class on a daily basis

Beginning **Monday, September 12th**

- 1 Composition-style notebook (spiral bound falls apart)
- A folder or binder (at least 1 inch) dedicated to LA class
- Loose-leaf notebook paper (replenish frequently)
- Pencils and erasers
- Colored Pencils and markers
- Highlighters
- Index cards (large and small)
- Post-It Notes (various sizes/colors)
- 1 Flash drive for saving files
- Independent reading novels

Donations are always welcome!

~Tissues (most needed), Paper Towels, Hand Sanitizer,



YEAR AT A GLANCE

1st Quarter

Literary Elements (plot, setting, characters, conflict)
Reading Nonfiction for Information
Evidence Based Writing
MEAP Practice
Vocabulary
Similes and Idioms
Nouns, Verbs, Complete Sentences, Run-Ons, Possessive Nouns, Verb Tense, Appositive Phrases
Clauses
Mystery Genre
Supporting an Opinion in Writing

2nd Quarter

Literary Elements (theme, author's purpose, point of view)
Reading Nonfiction for Information
Evidence Based Writing
Vocabulary
Adjectives, Adverbs, Pronouns, Verb Tense, Appositive Phrases
Punctuating Dialogue
Independent Reading
Compare & Contrast and Cause & Effect in Writing
In-Text Citations (MLA)
A Christmas Carol (including field trip!)
District Common Assessment

3rd Quarter

Literary Elements (mood, tone, style, theme)
Biography and Autobiography
Evidence Based Writing
Vocabulary
Figurative Language
Prepositions, Clauses and Phrases
Commas
Novel Study and Literary Analysis
In-Text Citations & Works Cited (MLA)
Research and Essay
Independent Reading

4th Quarter

Argument and Persuasion
Myths, Legends, Tall Tales
Poetry
Evidence Based Writing
Vocabulary
Figurative Language
Simple, Compound, & Complex Sentences
In-Text Citations & Works Cited (MLA)
Research and Essay
Independent Reading

HAVE A GREAT 7TH GRADE YEAR!

VIKING POWER

