



Welcome to Seventh-Grade English!

Course Description:

Seventh-grade English is designed to develop and challenge your writing, reading, thinking, and problem-solving skills. Underlying all of our work are the “Three C’s”: critical thinking, communication, and creativity. This year you will have many opportunities to read and analyze different genres of literature, to write in different forms, to share your ideas, thoughts, and opinions with your classmates, and to show your knowledge and understanding in creative ways.

Seventh-grade English involves both literature and language arts. You will engage in the writing process of outlining, drafting, conferencing, editing, and revising, and you will study grammar and vocabulary, viewing it within the context of your own reading and writing. Some of the readings we will do together, and you will also read independent selections. You will learn to identify the major elements of literature, to analyze literature for different levels of meaning, and you will become familiar with the lexicon (vocabulary) of English Language Arts.

Seventh-grade English requires you to be a reader, writer, thinker, and problem-solver—and to have fun along the way!

Homework:

You should expect homework several times a week. Sometimes homework may take a few days to complete, so it is important to keep track of your assignments and plan your time. Homework will be posted at the start of each class, and you are expected to record it in your planner. If you are absent, make sure you call a classmate or check my blog to see what you missed. Remember that it is *your* responsibility to find out what you’ve missed and to make it up.

Extensions:

If an emergency prevents you from completing your work, we will come up with a new due date.

Ms. Ajjan's email: dajjan@northampton-k12.us

Ms. Ajjan's blog: ajjanela.blogspot.com

Binder

Your binder should have two sections for ELA:

1. ELA Work
2. ELA Save (informational/reference handouts)

Writer's Notebook

Your writer's notebook is a place to do "Do Now" activities, such as writing about our reading or on prompts, freewriting, creative writing activities, brainteasers, and short grammar or literature exercises. This will also be a place for you to keep writing topic ideas, brainstorm for larger writing pieces, and write drafts. You can keep your writer's notebook in your binder or in the classroom cubbie. You may also use your chromebook rather than a notebook if you prefer.

Grading

Every graded assignment will be worth a certain number of points. These points are averaged at the end of the quarter. There is no "extra credit"; you are expected to complete all assignments. If you do, you will not need extra credit. However, "extension" work is encouraged!

I also informally assess the following:

- daily class participation
- being prepared for class
- completing work completely and on time
- participation in group discussions and group work
- journal writing/Do Now completion
- overall attitude and effort

Final Note...

The more you put into this class, the more you will get out of it. My wish is for all of you to be active, thoughtful, and creative speakers, listeners, readers, and writers. Feel free to take assignments to the highest limit you can, and don't be shy about asking for help/clarification when needed. I'm available throughout the day and after school if you need to ask a question, figure out a problem, or bounce ideas off of me!

I'm looking forward to a fantastic year with all of you!