

Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome to ELA! As your English Language Arts teacher, I look forward to working with you and your child this year! My goal is to provide your child an opportunity for growth in reading and writing skills, comprehension, grammar, and building a life-long habit of reading.

### **Essential Class Materials:**

- A folder with brads to organize notes and any hardcopy items throughout the year
- Notebook paper
- Writing utensils: red pen and pencil
- Composition notebook (widerule)
- SSR (Sustained Silent Reading) book - students must have an independent reading book at all times

### **Grady Policy**

Students are encouraged to view their graded work in Canvas. To access graded assignments, click on "Grades" in Canvas. Please read my feedback by clicking on the voice bubble to the right of the assignment. Grades do not automatically sync from Canvas to Skyward. When I'm finished grading, I will transfer them to Skyward. Grades will consist of minor grades (daily work, homework, and quizzes) and major grades (tests, projects, and essays).

*Note: In LISD, students are allowed to perform reteach/retest on tests; however, because I feel that grammar is essential in life and a true life skill, I allow students to reteach/re-quiz grammar quizzes. Again, grammar quizzes, not vocabulary quizzes.*

*Students will need to follow the protocol provided for each specific lesson regarding reteach/re-quiz or retest.*

- **Minor Grades (daily work, homework, quizzes) - 60%**
- **Major Grades (Tests, Projects, and Essays) 40%**

### **Late Work/Absent Work**

Minor work that is turned in late - not ready on the due date when class starts - the highest grade a student can earn the next day is a 70%. Minor work that is turned in two days late, the highest grade a student can earn is a 60%. Minor work that is turned in three or more days late, the highest grade a student can earn is a 50%. Major work that is turned in late - not ready on the due date when class starts - the highest grade a student can earn the next day is a 70%. Major work that is turned in two days late, the highest grade a student can earn is a 50%. Work that is not turned in is an automatic zero.

### **Communication - Canvas**

Parents are highly encouraged to be an observer of their child's Canvas courses. To access Canvas and observe, please refer to [Canvas for Parents](#). Please use the pairing code from your child's Canvas, located in the upper, left corner, under "Settings". Each week's lesson plans will be located under Modules in Canvas. In addition, Mrs. Casal also provides the [WISK](#) each week, which provides a [7th Grade Weekly Newsletter](#) of what we are doing in class.

### **Sustained Silent Reading (SSR)**

SSR is an integral part of the English Language Arts class. Students are required to read a minimum of one book each six weeks and complete a report/project within each 9-week grading period on the book for a summative assessment. The book requirement is 150 pages (minimum). I encourage students to read a book that has NOT been made into a movie, there are plenty of nonfiction and realistic fiction books out there. After they have completed their SSR book, then they are welcome to read any movie book until a new 9-weeks begins again. Students must come to class every day with their SSR Book. We will visit the library (as a class) 1-2 times per a 9-week grading period; and students can visit the library individually on their own as well! Books can also be checked out from the classroom library. Books checked out from this library should be returned in good condition. If a book is damaged or lost, the student will be required to pay for the lost/damaged book or replace the book with a new copy.

## Class Novels

This year in my ELA class, we will be reading a few class novels. Parents, if you'd like to review the book first, please email me at [hicke-stocktonk@lisd.net](mailto:hicke-stocktonk@lisd.net), and I'll be happy to share a copy with you!

### Other novels throughout the school year include:

*Dogsong*

*The Other Side of the Sky*

*The Lottery Rose*

*All the Broken Pieces*

*We Beat the Streets*

*Chasing Lincoln's Killer*

*The Monsters are Due on Maple Street (play)*

After the Christmas holiday break, we may be reading S.E. Hinton's, *That Was Then, This Is Now*. I use this book to have higher thinking discussions about the writer's purpose and predictions. We will use this book to practice our annotating skills that I will be teaching throughout the first semester. I strongly suggest students purchase this book so they can write directly in it for the annotations. Classroom copies of *That Was Then, This Is Now* are available for your child to use, but they will have to do all annotations on notebook paper, which can be time consuming.

If you choose for your student to not participate in any of the class novels, another one will be assigned. Assignments will be given to coordinate with the new novel. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

## Tutoring

Mondays and Wednesdays 8:15 - 8:45 A.M.

Tuesdays 4:10-4:40 P.M.

## Classroom Rules

- Be in your seat with the appropriate supplies when the tardy bell rings. Each student is expected to get out their SSR book and any other necessary materials (homework) immediately upon entering the classroom.
- Raise your hand and wait to be called on before speaking.
- Do NOT get up while the lesson is being taught. This is distracting for the teacher and other students.
- Be polite and respectful to your teacher and your classmates. Rude or disrespectful comments will not be tolerated.
- No horseplay. Keep your hands and feet to yourself, and do not take items that do not belong to you.
- Keep your area clean. All paper and other trash will be picked up before being dismissed from class.
- Please cough and sneeze into your elbow or inside your shirt. If you blow your nose, please use hand sanitizer afterwards.
- Food and drinks are not allowed in the classroom or hallways. Water is the only exception to the rule. You may bring water to class, but it must be in a bottle that closes so it will not spill in the classroom.

### **Classroom Rules - Continued**

- The teacher will dismiss you -- not the bell! You need to be sitting in your seat with your area clean before I dismiss your table. Please push your chair in every time you leave (bathroom, class, etc.). Do NOT line up at the door, change seats, or pack up early.
- Personal computers, iPads, headphones, etc. are NOT to be used UNLESS I give permission. Students will NOT listen to music from their iPad. Headphones are allowed for audiobooks during SSR, but students must follow along with the text. Cell phones need to be silenced and put in your backpacks at all times.

### **Lamar Middle School Behavior Plan - Ticket Consequences (Updated 1/6/26)**

1 - Parent contact & student/teacher discussion

2 - Parent contact & classroom referral in Skyward

3-4 - Parent contact, teacher detention, and classroom referral in Skyward

5+ - Office referral to Assistant Principal

Tickets are used in all classes. At the beginning of the second semester, the ticket system will start over.

Teaching is a collaborative effort between teachers and parents. Email is the BEST way to communicate with me; however, please give me up to 24 hours to respond because of the time of the day the email is sent/received.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Stockton

7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA and Study Skills

M. Ed. Technology

Lamar Middle School

972-350-2044

***Note: I reserve the right to make changes to my syllabus at any time and a notification will be shared.***