



Welcome to 7th Grade English

"Begin with the end in mind." Stephen Covey

Teacher: Mrs. Dana Stelling, Room 709

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I am excited to help students learn and grow through the study of reading, writing and communication. It is my belief that every student can succeed if they work with effort and determination.

Course Description: This class builds on the skills addressed in 6th Grade Language Arts and Reading. Students will study reading and writing using informational texts, novels, short stories, poetry, and research. Students will develop writing and verbal communication skills through the study of grammar, mechanics, documentation, speaking, and listening.

All assignments will be posted daily on the classroom assignment board and the *Canvas* home page. *Amplify ELA* is our English curriculum. *Canvas* and *Synergy* are used for online assignments, reminders, and announcements.

Required Materials:

- **Pencils** (Bring extra lead/pencils if you use mechanical pencils; no pens in English class)
- **Notebook** (left in the classroom)
- Paper & Folder (or 3-ring binder/Trapper Keeper)
- Independent Reading Book (from home or library)
- School Chromebook (charged)
- Textbook or novel (as assigned)

Classroom Expectations: Students are expected to **Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Engaged**. This includes being prepared for class with materials and a positive attitude, participating by speaking and listening, turning in assignments on time, neat handwriting, and putting forth best effort daily. Students are expected to keep track of assignments and due dates. Students should read (reading book, class text) at least 15 minutes per day. In order to minimize interruptions, gum, candy, and fidgets are not allowed without permission from the teacher. Also, students are expected to use their passing periods for bathroom breaks. If needed, they may ask to use the bathroom during the last 20 minutes of class.

Cell Phones: Students may **NOT** have cell phones or other personal electronic devices while they are in classrooms, locker rooms, or restrooms. During school hours students must keep their cell phones or other electronic devices in lockers (per [Student Handbook](#)). If a phone is present in class or a smartwatch causes a distraction in the classroom, it will remain in the office until the end of the day. This will result in a detention and the student will get the electronic device back after serving detention. The fastest way to reach a student during school hours is to call the school at 308-698-8120.

**The mission of Kearney Public Schools is to
inspire and empower students to impact the world!**

Grades: Students are responsible for their grades. Assignment grades are based on the 10-point grading scale which are measured in two categories: formative - 40% (quizzes, assignments, homework quizzes, small projects) and summative - 60% (tests, assessments, large projects). Students may retake any assignment after a consultation with me.

Homework: Reading a minimum of 15 minutes is the daily homework. Other homework may be assigned to give students additional practice with the content, finish an incomplete assignment, or in order to complete a project.

Missed Classes: When a student is **absent**, it is his or her responsibility to get the missing work on the first day he or she returns to class. It is also the student's responsibility to see that make-up work is turned in on time. Students have one day for each day absent to complete missing work. If a student misses a class for a school activity, he or she is required to ask me for that day's assignments before leaving for the activity.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is an integral component of the English curriculum therefore, writing instruction includes the appropriate way to use and document source material to avoid plagiarism. Students may not cheat, plagiarize, or otherwise participate in any academic dishonesty in any form. Cheating (copying answers from a classmate and/or using outside resources to gain answers) will not be tolerated. **Academic consequences are on a case-by-case basis which may include, but not limited to, a loss of a privilege, reworking the assignment, or completing an alternate assignment.** A student who cheats, plagiarizes, or otherwise participates in any academic dishonesty is subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion (per [Student Conduct Appendix](#)).

AI (Artificial Intelligence) Policy: AI is never to be used to generate content or complete work for this class without consultation and permission from me. KPS's A.I. Policy States: *A student who, without the prior authorization or permission from the classroom teacher, uses artificial intelligence to assist with any class, project, exam, essay, or other assignment may be subject to disciplinary measures, including the Board's plagiarism policy and academic dishonesty rules.* Consequences for violating the AI policy will be assigned on a case-by-case basis.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."--Dr. Seuss