



Dana Middle School

5th Grade English Language Arts 2026-2027

General Information and Course Expectations

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Room 205

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General Course Description

All instruction will be based on the Common Core State Standards for 5th grade in reading, writing, language (grammar and vocabulary), and speaking and listening. Instruction and practice for student mastery of the standards will be taught using a holistic approach and will attend to students' unique learning styles. Emphasis will be placed on developing students' communication skills through the use of purposeful turn-and-talks and thinking routines.

Required Daily Supply List*

- sharpened pencils
- pencil sharpener with a cap
- yellow or pink highlighter
- glue stick
- scissors
- independent reading book (must be with you at **ALL** times)
- Writer's Notebook (supplied in class)
- ChromeBook and charger
- headphones with wire

* Please contact the teacher if you cannot provide these items, and they will be provided for you.

Academic Grading Practices

- Academic grades shall be based solely on students' current levels of mastery of the board-adopted standards and shall not be influenced by behavior or nonacademic factors.
- Academic grades shall use multiple means to assess mastery and will include opportunities for reflection, revision, and reassessment in order to ensure the mastery of grade level standards for all students.
- Citizenship marks shall not be influenced by academic marks and reflect the student's general behavior, punctuality, effort, and work habits within the school community.
- Grade reports shall reflect current levels of student learning and include comments documenting progress towards mastery of standards.

Grading Breakdown

Reading 30%

Writing 30%

Word Study/Grammar 30%

Listening & Speaking 10%

Late Work

Any late work should be turned in as soon as possible for 10% less credit for each day late. Accepted late work that is **turned in** will never receive lower than a 50%. This policy allows for a culture of redemption at our school and allows for students to learn from their mistakes and recover their grade. Late homework will always receive partial credit unless:

- You had an excused absence and note on the late work that you were absent when it was due
- You have a note from a parent/guardian with an acceptable reason why the work is late (traumatic event, family emergency, etc.)
 - Sports, performances, etc. are prior known choices, and are not acceptable/excused reasons for late schoolwork.

Types of Course Assignments

Response to Literature

As a part of our class novel study, in a one-three paragraph entry in their writer's notebooks, students will use evidence from the text to make inferences and form real world connections to the day's class reading.

Vocabulary Homework/Tests

Students will take weekly vocabulary tests to show mastery of comprehension. Homework is not graded, but is required to perform well on exams. We will use the Flocabulary curriculum. Weekly lessons may be found on Google Classroom.

Grammar Tests

Students will be responsible for taking notes in their writer's notebooks during direct instruction. Tests will be given quarterly to assess mastery of concepts.

Slides Book Reviews

Students are required to read "just right books" daily at home. They will submit a monthly book review in slides format. Instructions may be found on Google Classroom.

Narratives

Students will learn the art of narrative writing and will showcase their learning in a final polished product. This will account for a major portion of their writing grade and should be revised and edited accordingly.

Essays

Students will study and write a series of expository and persuasive essays throughout the year to showcase their understanding of text structure and features.

Snack Tutoring

Students are encouraged to come to Snack Tutoring on Mondays directly after school for support with assignments. Snack Tutoring ends at 1:10 PM.

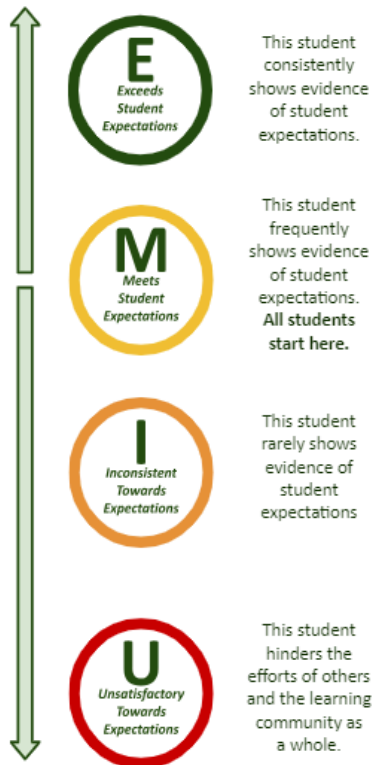
Citizenship Expectations

Our citizenship grades are an **evaluation of many factors** brought together to measure a student's general behavior and effort in class. It is the **culmination** of a student's willingness and efforts to help or hinder the progress of class and/or other students.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in service of others."
- Mahatma Gandhi

Citizenship grades are the **balance** of a student's efforts and behaviors. They are not the result of one day or one action.

The Dana Middle faculty will be **explicit and transparent in teaching and modeling** for our students how to reach excellence in citizenship.



Citizenship Grading Rubric

Expectations	Exceeds	Meets	Inconsistent	Unsatisfactory
• Demonstrates a positive and cooperative attitude with adults and students.				
• Communicates well and focuses on trying to understand others before being understood by others.				
• Independently solves problems with others in positive ways.				
• Practices self-control, kindness, honesty and respect for others.				
• Is a hard worker who consistently is on task and gives their best effort.				
• Shows grit when the work gets tough.				
• Comes to school on time and on a regular basis.				
• Obey school and class rules.				

“What can I do to raise or lower my citizenship grade?”

The following are examples of actions/behaviors that result in a higher citizenship grade: • Stay focused on work and instruction • Work well with partners and helps other when appropriate • Listen to others • Take ownership and learn from mistakes • Tell the truth • Use kind words • Independently solve problems with others • Respect other people and property • Attend school on a consistent basis and be on time to class • Respect visitors and guests at Dana • Respect classroom rules and materials • Follow the Dana code of conduct	The following are examples of actions/behaviors that result in a lower citizenship grade: • Talk out of turn or disrupt class • Disrupt partners or avoid work • Ignore or talk over others • Blame or disrespect others • Lie, cheat, or copy work • Use hurtful language or talk poorly about others • Create conflict or rumors • Steal or vandalize property • Frequently absent or late to class • Misuse phones or digital tools • Display poor behavior with substitute • Have and/or eat candy or gum at school
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Classroom Discipline

Students found to be engaging in behaviors counter to our classroom agreements will be given up to two warnings, if the behavior persists, a consequence will be rendered. Consequences vary from loss of privileges, reflection letters, restorative circles, and may include a phone call home. Detentions are avoided at all costs, but may be assigned if the previously mentioned measures do not serve to rectify the behaviors or if the student is found to be chewing gum or wearing/using a smart watch or phone during school hours.

Absence Policy

If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what was missed during your absence. If you are aware of an extended absence, please contact me before or during the absence to stay caught up on classwork and follow the school district’s policy on absence contracts. Please check Google Classroom, ask a classmate, and pick up missing handouts from the “Absent Work” box upon returning to school. You may have the same number of days you were absent to make up your work.

Please complete the following page and return to me promptly.

Signature Form
Syllabus for 5th grade ELA
Dana Middle School
Jillian Ruiz

Please sign below to verify that you have read and understand the course syllabus:

Student name (please print): _____

Parent(s) name(s) and contact information (email, phone number or both):

Parent signature to verify that you have read the syllabus with your child:

Any questions? Anything I should know about your child and their learning needs or style?
***Feel free to comment using the space provided on back.
