



# 7TH GRADE ENGLISH

## MR. LAVELLE ROOM 34

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Welcome to English Language Arts & Reading! I am looking forward to a year of learning and thriving together. In this class, we are going to work hard and give our best each day, focusing on analyzing literature and developing writing skills as outlined in the Common Core State Standards. In order for *everyone* to be successful learners, you, as an individual, will need to follow the classroom *and* schoolwide expectations, policies, and procedures as explicitly stated below. Inappropriate behavior that prevents learning WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. We are Knights, and Knights are RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, AND SAFE.

### CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND PROCEDURES

- **Proper Class Entrance:** Students are expected to line up cordially outside of the classroom until I welcome you in. This procedure helps ensure students are never in the classroom without an adult, and it also gives me a chance to greet and check in with each student before class begins.
- **Ready to learn:** Once students have respectfully, responsibly, and safely entered the class, you have now crossed the threshold of the learning environment; meaning, you need to ensure you are prepared *before* the tardy bell rings—in your seat, prepared with all class materials and quietly ready to complete bellwork. When the bell to start class rings, we are “ON” and ready to learn.
- **Classroom Seating & Movement:** Students are expected to sit in their assigned seats unless instructed to change by the teacher. Assigned seating remains even under the supervision of a guest teacher/substitute. The only time there should be any movement throughout the class is when there is a designated activity or I have approved the opportunity for a student to be out of their seat after they have respectfully raised their hand and asked.
- **Restroom Use:** Please be aware that restroom use during learning time is limited. Students are to use the restroom during passing period (before class) and/or during our breaks between the block periods. Otherwise, restroom use will be granted to students one at a time using SmartPass.
- **Technology Use:** It is a schoolwide expectation that students are not to use their personal technology/devices during school hours. Phones, Airpods, etc. need to be on silent/off and put away before the start of the school day. Adults on campus have the right to confiscate devices. Students are also expected to use school Chromebooks respectfully, responsibly, and safely. Failure to do so may result in an alternative paper assignment, a “0” on the assignment, or an Admin referral.
- **End of Class/Homework:** Students are expected to wait until the teacher dismisses them, not the bell, so as not to miss any final instructions for the day. Homework will consist of unfinished classwork, make up work, and/or work to redo.
- **Additional Schoolwide Expectations:** No gum, food or drinks in class (water is OK)—save snacks for break/passing period or lunch time. Hats, hoods, or inappropriate clothing as stated in our [School Board Policy](#) should not be worn.

### TOOLS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

- **Curriculum:** We will utilize the Collections, Close Reader, and Performance Assessment textbooks as part of our curriculum aligning with Common Core State Standards. Students will be provided their own copies for personal use and materials can also be accessed online.

- **Reading:** Our core literature novels this year are: [A Long Walk to Water](#) by Linda Sue Park, [The Giver](#) by Lois Lowry, and [Counting by Sevens](#) by Holly Goldberg Sloan. Students will be provided core novels to study in class. Students have the option to access novels online, check out a copy from a library, or purchase a copy (buy used for a reasonable price) for students to study these novels outside of class.
- **PowerSchool:** Use these online resources to view grades and access posted materials and assignments at home. You can reach Canvas and PS through our school website and/or through the Clever Student portal: <https://clever.com>
- **Recommended supplies** for the class:
  - Loose leaf, preferably college ruled lined paper
  - Different color highlighters
  - Pencils (mechanical or wood) & pens
  - One pack of coloring utensils: colored pencils/markers/crayons
  - A paper folder for all work and various paper items

## CLASS POLICIES: GRADES AND DISCIPLINE

- ❖ **Grades** will be weighted by the following:
  - Tests/Quizzes = **40%**
  - Projects/Extra Credit/Participation = **20%**
  - Classwork/Participation = **40%**
- ❖ **Work Policy**
  - I will accept **late work** up to one week after the original due date, exceptions may be made at my discretion based upon varying circumstances.
  - Students have the opportunity to redo assignments for *up to full credit* under the following conditions:
    - Come in during granted hours to redo and turn in the assignment. You must redo the assignment and turn it in with the original stapled to it.
    - Redos made during office hours must be completed and turned in two weeks prior to the end of the quarter in order to receive up to full credit.
  - Students may make up tests up to one week prior to the end of the quarter. Make up tests will be offered during office hours or by afterschool appointment, and can be an alternative format.
  - Essays may be teacher-reviewed during the writing process as many times necessary before the final due date. Students may request essay reviews by bringing a printed copy to office hours. If there is any suspicion of plagiarism, or a student is caught plagiarizing, they will receive an automatic zero for the assignment.
- ❖ **Absences**
  - **If you are absent for 1-2 days, your responsibility as a student is to check the make-up folder upon your return to see what you have missed.** I will accept absent work up to one week after your return without penalty. Any absent work turned in after the one-week grace period is classified as late (up to 70% of earned grade).
  - **In case of absences of 3+ days, your responsibility as a student is to check Canvas or contact me via Parent Square/email on the morning of your 3rd day if you need assignments sent to the office for pick up.** Please note: a parent/guardian must contact the office for *scheduled* absences of 3+ days (eg: planned trip, sports tournament, county fair showing...). In these district-approved cases, the office will gather work and give the student their assignments prior to the date of absence.
- ❖ **Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism**
  - Any form of cheating or plagiarism (*any talking/disruption during a test, copying homework, using someone else's work as your own, etc.*) will not be tolerated and will result in a zero on the assignment, parent notification, and an Administrator referral. In some cases, I will allow work to

be made up based on severity, including quizzes and tests at a later date where the student is separated from the class for the time it takes them to re-take.

❖ **Behavior Intervention**

- I will utilize these intervention steps if a student chooses against following expectations:
  - 1st offense:** Verbal warning, loss of participation point
  - 2nd offense:** 1:1 conference with Mr.Lavelle, and reflection assignment sent home (parent signature required).
  - 3rd offense:** Parent contact, lunch detention
  - 4th offense:** After-school detention, additional parent contact. School policy states each after-school detention = 1 discipline point on student record, see NMS Student Handbook.
  - \*5th offense:** Administrator referral
  - \*6th offense:** Parent-Teacher conference with Administrator
- Please note that my intervention of some behaviors may not follow the flow of these steps and that, depending on severity, a student's choices may be grounds for immediate dismissal from class. In these rare instances, disciplinary actions will be the Administration's discretion.*
- *Parents/Guardians, if your child receives a consequence due to an infraction of procedures/policies, please consider my expectations for learning and the student's actions in the learning atmosphere rather than questioning the merit of the consequence. I firmly believe that our society's youth can rise to the expectations set for them. If your student is putting forth a complete effort and is still having difficulty, please do not hesitate to reach out so we can implement positive and proactive strategies together. I truly take the education of every child seriously. It takes a village, and I am here to be on your team! If you ever have any questions or concerns, I check Parent Square frequently both during and after school, and it is the best place to reach me.*

Please indicate below if you have:

Mr.Lavelle for ELA AND Reading Y/N

Mr.Lavelle for ONLY ELA Y/N

Mr.Lavelle for ONLY Reading (Support) Y/N

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PLEASE SIGN & RETURN THE PORTION THAT YOU  
INDICATED YOUR CLASS ABOVE AS WELL AS EVERYTHING BELOW

I am aware of my child's expectations, procedures, and policies for this course. I understand that the rules set forth in this syllabus are intentionally rigid and structured to help my student develop a strong work ethic to ultimately thrive.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

I have read Mr. Lavelle's expectations and am aware it is my responsibility to become keenly aware of these classroom policies & procedures. I am aware that my primary goal as a student is to learn and that any act deviating my teacher's ability to teach will not be tolerated. Regardless of my preconceptions of grammar, reading and writing, I will commit to learning the course material by taking responsibility for my education. I understand what it means to be accountable and will give my full effort inside and outside of class. I understand that I am equally accountable as everyone else in the class to the above expectations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
STUDENT SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE