

Green Brook Middle School

English Language Arts-GATE Grade 7

Doreen Darr

Course Description:

Students will utilize the writing process in a workshop environment to write narrative, argumentative, and informational essays. A primary focus of this course will be reading and research skills, including literary analysis essays. Reading skills will include characteristics of both fiction and nonfiction texts, as well as literary elements and conventions that define and enrich different authors' styles.

Course Expectations:

CLASS PROCEDURES AND ASSESSMENTS

- 1. Tests and Quizzes:** Assessments are given periodically. Tests are announced in advance and dates are written on the homework board. Some quizzes will be announced in the same manner, and others will be unannounced. Writing assignments and essays count as test grades. All test grades will be shown on Genesis. All papers will be returned and kept in a file in the classroom. After an absence, assessments must be made up within five days of a student's return to school. Tests and quizzes cannot be made up in bulk at the end of the marking period.
- 2. Homework** is an important part of class and your grade average. All homework is averaged together and counts as a test grade in Mrs. Darr's class, and as several different quiz grades throughout the marking period in Mrs. Clark's class.. Homework is evaluated holistically for evidence of growth and learning. It is scored using a check system. If a student has a valid excuse or a written note, it can be made up the next day. Parents will be informed about chronic missing assignments. If a student is absent, he or she will have the responsibility to hand in the missing assignments in a timely manner.
- 3. Parents** should check Genesis frequently to keep informed of their children's grades. Grades will be updated once a week. Please contact the technology department if assistance is needed in accessing the account.
- 4. This class** will require certain materials and supplies as detailed in the school supply list on the school website.

Green Brook Middle School

5. Writing is a very important part of the curriculum as students prepare for PARCC testing and high school success. Drafts and final copies of essays will be kept in a writing portfolio in the classroom.

6. Contact Mrs.Darr at ddarr@gbtps.org. Contact Mrs. Clark at aclark@gbtps.org. Parents should send a quick email at the beginning of the school year so that their preferred email is kept on file throughout the school year.

7. Extra help is available during PGC academic support period, and other times by prior arrangement.

8. When students are absent, they should be responsible to make a plan to complete their missing work and get caught up to date in a timely manner.

Rules for ELA Class

1. Students must arrive on time. If a student is late, he or she should have a late pass. Frequent lateness will not be tolerated.

2. Students must always come to class prepared for the day's lesson. That means having a pencil, an independent reading book, and a charged Chromebook is a class requirement every day!

3. During class discussion, treat others as you would wish to be treated by listening respectfully and waiting your turn to speak. A student is to raise his or her hand and wait to be recognized prior to speaking.

4. After entering the class, students will record homework and read the agenda board. Then complete the Do Now. The class will work quietly until the teacher calls for attention.

5. During class workshop time, students are permitted to go to the Student Supply Center for various materials. Please handle materials kindly and keep the area neat.

6. Students may go to the bathroom/get a drink/visit their lockers if needed during the first two minutes of class without being considered late. After that, students need to work on the items detailed in #4, and be present for the following lesson. Do not ask to leave during the instruction! You will miss out on valuable learning and disrupt the learning of others. Emergencies are an exception and as such will only occur infrequently. After the lesson, students must ask permission to leave

Green Brook Middle School

the classroom; this can be done by using the two finger method and raising your hand.

7. If you need a tissue you may get up and get one. If more than one is needed, take a few the first time. Students may sharpen their pencils at any time unless a quiz/test is going on.

8. Students should always follow directions and listen carefully.

9. In accordance with school policy, cell phones are not permitted.

10. Cheating is a very serious issue and will not be tolerated. Refer to the discipline policy in regard to this matter.

11. If a fire drill or evacuation drill occurs, students must remain quiet and focus on getting out of the building with their class. If a student should happen to be in the lavatory or in another part of the building at this time, the student is to find the nearest teacher and leave the building with her/him.

12. If a lockdown, secure your students, or other drill occurs follow the instructions for each as specified by school policy.

13. With your words and actions respect your fellow students, your teacher, visitors to the room, classroom books, equipment and supplies.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

- **BE RESPECTFUL.**
- **BE PREPARED.**
- **BE RESPONSIBLE.**
- **LISTEN, THE FIRST TIME.**
- **TRY YOUR BEST.**
- **THINK BEFORE YOU ACT; ACTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES!**

Consequences

1. Verbal Warning
2. Teacher detention, email or phone call to parents, time-out of class

3. Discipline report sent to office and Dr. Bigsby.

Contact Information:

Mrs. Darr's email address is ddarr@gbtps.org. Parents should send Mrs. Darr a quick email at the beginning of school so that their email is kept on file throughout the school year to facilitate communication.

Grading Plan:

Tests and Writing Assignments are 75% of the final grade.

Quizzes are 25% of the final grade.

Homework and Classwork is averaged together as quiz grades throughout each marking period.