

# HAPPY 2025! WELCOME TO MR. LEFKO'S ELA CLASS!

IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK! WE WILL BE FOCUSING ON SHORT STORIES, POETRY, AND NONFICTION  
READING/ WRITING. HOPEFULLY YOU'LL LEARN SOME NEW THINGS ALONG THE WAY :)



**Novels, Short Stories, Poetry, Creative Writing, Research Strategies, Real-World Exploration, and Journalism...(OH, and vocabulary and grammar in there, too)...**

(all order and choices are subject to change)

- We start with short stories as a way to get everyone's brains back into the swing of reading different forms of literature and comprehending their meanings to practice analyzing texts. We will explore stories such as "A Sound of Thunder" by Ray Bradbury, "The Most Dangerous Game" by Richard Connell, and "The Bet" by Anton Chekhov. We will use these stories to encounter and explore topics such as obsessions, conflict, being a good samaritan, ingenuity, insanity, technology advancement, stereotyping, and more. Naturally, I will be trying to keep it spooky around Halloween :D

- Next, we will travel to New Orleans with a boy named Zane and his dog, Bandit. Our narrative focus involves elements such as setting, dialogue, figurative language, point of view and, as always, theme. We will be engaging in some science chatter as well! We will also be exploring the science behind hurricanes and use this novel and an avenue to explore the different kinds of characteristics around the regions of the United States!
- Next, we hit poetry by reading some very famous works by authors such as Poe, Dickinson, and Angelou. Afterwards, we will transition to the Civil War and work as closely as possible with the Social Studies teacher. The goal will be to create an intertwined and detailed experience while developing and honing skills in both nonfiction texts and informational writing. You also get the chance to work with an award-winning cartoonist to create your own cartoons depicting moments in history!
- Then comes the study revolving around the award-winning documentary "Living on One". We will be exploring the challenges of living on \$1 per day and gaining a greater appreciation for the daily aspects of life. Informational text will be the focal point of these activities!
- Then the study of conflicts and personalities. Here you will get to experience some drama work, research the 60's and learn about what makes us, us. Research and exploration concerning different decades will be done by examining the various characteristics of each decade such as music, technology, clothing, transportation, food, etc.
- Last but not least we will do speech writing and break down some of the best! This writing will be focused about various topics designed to elevate passion, dedication, research, and debate skills!
- Entering class you will get a journal prompt to respond to and leaving class you will get an exit ticket based around informational text. May the odds be ever in your favor!

## Grading:

You will be graded on 6 competencies for reading and writing this year:

1. Fictional Reading Comprehension (analyzing ideas, characters, plot progression, examine themes, comprehend figurative language)
2. Informational Reading Comprehension (discuss main ideas, analogies, comparisons, connections, identify supporting ideas)
3. Poetry Comprehension (identify and use poetic devices, interpret, themes)
4. Informational Writing (research, speeches, argumentative and persuasive, creative writing)
5. Grammar (punctuation, editing)
6. Vocabulary (spelling, definitions)

HDMS will be converting to a four point grading scale for the 2024-25 school year. This will align us to both the elementary and high school that use similar grading scales.

4- Exceeding- 100-90%

3- Proficient- 89-70%

2- Approaching- 69-60%

1- Needs Improvement- <59%

Assignments will be broken into 2 main categories:

-Summatives (Tests, Writing Prompts, etc)

-Formatives (Practice Assignments like worksheets, Exit Tickets, etc)

\*Students will not receive grades on Formative Practice Assignments. However, if they choose not to do the assignments to practice, they will struggle on the Summative portion of the topic.

\*If a student receives a score below a 2 (69-60%) on a Summative, this will automatically trigger a redo of the Summative, but not until the student redoes the practice assignments again during their PREP time.

## Grading Rules and Exceptions:

**Absences and make-up work:** If you are absent, YOU are responsible for getting your missing work. Any paper copies that you missed will be in your Core folder or in the "Missing work" folder with your name on it. If there is nothing there for you, please check your Google Classroom! If you still can't find it, please check in with me! You have one week to get absent work turned in.

**Late work:** Classwork is expected to be completed during the class period. If it is not complete, you can turn it in the next day for half credit. \*Exceptions can be made based on effort and conversations with the teacher.

**Major Assignments:** You have until the end of the unit to turn these in. You will know when a unit is ending ahead of time. \*Exceptions can be made based on effort and conversations with the teacher.

**Redos/Retakes:** You may redo or re-take as many as one summative (test/quiz/project) per quarter. All make-up and late work must be handed in or emailed one week before the end of the quarter.

If you wish to redo or retake an assignment, you need to complete the following steps in order to earn full credit:

1. Meet with me outside of class ( before or after school) to discuss what you want to redo and why.
2. Identify a day by which the retake assignment will be accomplished.
3. Create a calendar of completion (with teacher help) that will help the student accomplish the assignment.
4. Submit the original version of the assignment if it is available.
5. When finished, write a letter of reflection that details unsuccessful methods and why the new methods are more successful.

**\*IF YOU RE-DO WORK OR TURN WORK IN LATE, YOU MUST ASK ME TO REDO THE ASSIGNMENT AND THEN EMAIL ME EXACTLY WHAT YOU COMPLETED. \***

## Seventh Grade Non-Negotiables:

- Respect yourself, others, and school property
  - Keep your hands to yourself
  - Line up outside the door if there is no adult in the room
  - Be a kind human
  - Accept each other's differences
- Cell phones need to be in your locker - there are clocks in the room!
  - Phone calls are to be made in the main office
- No hats, no hoods, no earbuds, no headphones
- Only one person may leave the room at a time (bathroom, water, etc)
  - Use the E-Pass online
  - Exception: nurse emergency
- Students cannot be in a classroom without a teacher
  - Line up outside the classroom if there is no teacher

### Class Expectations...

1. Punctual - be on time, ready to work.
2. Prepared - notebook and folder, Chrome book, pencil.
3. Positive - attitude interaction.
4. Participate - ask questions, be active, and be on task.
5. Pick-up - and put materials where they belong.

Have fun!

### COMMUNICATION-

I will do the best that I can in my sometimes crazy, never dull life to keep communication lines open. I have simple rules that apply to all of us:

1. Be kind! If you're upset, DON'T email in the heat of the moment!
2. I am available to be reached via email before 6 pm.
3. I am able to stay until 4pm after school if notified on days scheduled for after school help..
4. I am not available before school starts.

5. There are always exceptions.

6. Be responsible.

7. It's ok to make mistakes, that's part of learning!

As I've said already, I'm very much looking forward to this year! I truly love my job.

I've wanted to be a teacher since flip phones were popular; I know jaws dropped on that sentence. I can't wait to meet you all! =D

**CONTACT INFORMATION-**

glefko@hdsd.org

(603) 464-1106 ext. 1255

## **Please complete and return this page only.**

Student and parent confirmation of receipt: Please sign below and return this section only, confirming that you have read and understand the syllabus for 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA class.

Parent/Guardian:\_\_\_\_\_

Student:\_\_\_\_\_

Parent /guardian contact information indicating how to best contact you.

Name.\_\_\_\_\_

*Email:*\_\_\_\_\_

*Phone:*\_\_\_\_\_

Please let me know if there are any new or extenuating circumstances, issues, or new behaviors that your student may benefit with my knowledge: