

English 7 (2025-26)

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“My mission this year is to teach my students how to think, rather than what to think; to improve their minds, to enable them to think for themselves.”

I look forward to joining you in your studies this year! The state English standards include the study of vocabulary, grammar, and punctuation; essays / informational reports; class reading/study of selections from the literature textbook and several novels; independent reading of books with associated reports; and oral presentations/ brief speeches. You can view the Common Core standards at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/finalelaccsstandards.pdf>.

District policy states, "English 7 Curriculum objectives will reflect higher-level critical thinking and creative problem-solving. Lessons should incorporate one or more of the following dimensions: depth, complexity, novelty, and acceleration of pacing." The domains covered will be Reading, Writing, Language, Speaking, and Listening.

Our Norms

- ***Respect everyone’s experiences***
- ***Translate your meaning and ask others to translate theirs***
- ***Listen from zero*** (don’t assume you know the outcome of events)
- ***Give your accurate location*** (state where you stand currently on topics and say what you mean, but don’t say it means...)
- ***Be coachable*** (be willing to learn from others, listen to others' suggestions, and put new things into action)

Classroom Policies

1. **Classroom Environment:** Respect is a priority in my classroom and a value that encompasses every aspect of learning. I will treat everyone in this class with kindness and respect, and I expect you to do the same. In showing respect for the class, please follow the rules:

- ***Respect the rights, property, and individuality of yourself and others***
- ***Allow the teacher to teach and students to learn***
- ***Follow directions the first time***
- ***No chewing of gum is allowed***
- ***No food, drinks, or candy are allowed during class (unless awarded by the teacher or during a designated snack time). Water is acceptable.***
- ***No electronics and grooming during class time.***
- ***Be prompt in arriving on time for the class with assignments completed***
- ***Show problem-solving skills and make good decisions***

Failure to comply with policies could result in office referrals or calls home.

Breaking the above rules will result in the following consequences:

1st offense – A Warning will be given.

2nd offense – Conference with the teacher and parents contacted.

3rd offense – Referred to the administration and parents conference.

2. **Attendance:** Attendance will be taken daily on Aeries! A parent or guardian should inform the school (510-656-4000) when a student will be absent. The Tardy policy will align with the school's Tardy policy.

3. **Academic Honesty:** Our Class maintains a zero-tolerance policy for cheating or plagiarism. Your integrity is far more important than any grade. Academic dishonesty is not just a violation of rules—it reflects on your character.

Any instance of plagiarism or cheating will result in a **zero** for the assignment and disciplinary action under the school's policy. **Plagiarism** includes copying, borrowing, or using someone else's ideas, words, or work—whether from a person, book, website, or AI—and presenting them as your own.

Please consult the **Horner Academic Honesty Policy** for further clarification.

4. **Using AI digital apps:** The use of AI applications, such as ChatGPT and Grammarly AI—**except for Grammarly's autocomplete tool** or similar tools, which check grammar and punctuation—is permissible for written or oral assignments as long as you adhere to the following guidelines.

- **Cite the tool used** (e.g., “I used Grammarly to check spelling”).
- Submit a **brief explanation of how you used the AI** and how you modified its output to reflect your work.

Submitting work entirely or generated mainly by AI (e.g., an essay written by AI) is considered academic dishonesty, similar to plagiarism. This includes copying AI text without significant revision or attribution.

It is advised that you “**Show Your Work.**”

- For all assignments, you must demonstrate your thinking process. This includes:
 - Annotations: When reading texts, submit handwritten or digital notes highlighting key ideas, questions, or connections you made while reading.
 - For writing or analysis tasks, include a log showing your steps (e.g., brainstorming, outlining, drafting, or revising). For example, if you use AI to brainstorm, submit a log of your original ideas alongside the AI's suggestions and explain how you chose or modified them.
 - Submit rough drafts, outlines, or graphic organizers to show how your work developed.
 - **Respect copyright and intellectual property - AI-generated content must be original or properly cited.**
- Failure to provide evidence of your process may lead to disciplinary action under the Horner Academic Honesty Policy for plagiarism.

*Remember: Using AI tools **without prior permission from your teacher** is considered plagiarism. Unauthorized use will result in the same consequences outlined in the Horner Academic Honesty Policy. (More details to follow in my AI usage policy presentation.)*

5. **Late Work:** Late work is not appreciated; however, if the student cannot bring in the assignment on the due date, they must have a conference with Mrs. Bedi regarding submitting it late. In my class, “Zeroes Are Not Permitted.” I will accept your late work within a reasonable time, but it will not earn you full credit. When submitting your late work, please state the days the assignment is late and the reason for the delay next to your name on the document or in a separate letter sent to me.

Remember: I will accept late work for partial credit with the following conditions:

- Mrs. Bedi will determine the credit for late work on a case-by-case basis.
- I will only take work until the end of the current quarter/grading period.
- Turn in your completed late assignments as soon as possible to maximize learning potential.

Repeated instances of Late work submission will result in a conference with Mrs. Bedi and the parents.

6. **Absent work:** If the student is absent, they must check Google Classroom, contact a classmate, or contact Mrs. Bedi. Once you return, you have the days absent to make up for what you missed. This policy only applies to assignments that were assigned when you were absent. If the due date falls during your absence, you need to submit the due assignment the day you return. Additionally, you will be allowed to make up tests missed due to absence. For more clarification, please contact Mrs. Bedi.

7. **Tardy Policy:** Being prepared and on time is essential. You must be seated with all materials ready and actively engaged in the bell ringer activity before the tardy bell rings to be considered on time.

Materials Required Every Day in the Classroom:

1. Pencil or pen, plus a backup
2. 3-4 different colored highlighters
3. Post-its
4. Binder paper
5. A spiral, Five-star, multi-subject, college-ruled notebook for taking notes. Alternatively, consider organizing your English binder into five (5) sections.
6. The school will provide you with a school planner.

Note: This planner is a valuable tool for staying organized and keeping track of your assignments, tests, and other important dates. Please ensure that you use it effectively to manage your academic responsibilities.

Grading Policies

Your grade will be determined by various assignments completed during live class sessions and independent work time.

The total points you earn over the semester will determine your final grade. Students will receive points for tests/quizzes, writing assignments, book reports /projects, and oral presentations.

The grades in my class are weighted as follows:

My Gradebook Weighted Categories:

Category	Weightage
Test/Quizzes	25%
Writing	30%
Book Reports, Projects, Reading Logs	25%
Speaking and Listening assignments	20%

My Grading Scale:

Grade	Percentage Range
A	100% - 90%
B	89.9% - 80%
C	79.9% - 70%
D	69.9% - 60%
F	59.9% and below

Note: There is no rounding of percentages in my classes. Your grade is based on the exact percentage you earn. If you earn 89.9%, your grade will be a B, not an A. Please keep this in mind when calculating your overall grade.

No Extra Credit offered

Remember that *you earn* your grades. To be eligible for Honors in Grade 8, you must maintain 73% or more in both semesters during the current academic year.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have; please e-mail me (this is the best way to contact me) or leave a voicemail on the school phone. I will respond within 1 to 2 school days. Please let me know if there is anything I can do!

Instructional Practices

Flipped Classroom: I employ the flipped classroom model, with a strong emphasis on discussions to explore concepts. (A flipped classroom is a *type of blended learning* where students are introduced to content at home and practice working through it at school. This learning is the reverse of the more common practice of introducing new content at school, then assigning homework and projects to be completed by the students independently at home.)

Homework Policy: District policy (BP 6154) requires middle school students to spend an average of 60-90 minutes on homework each night. The Board supports and encourages independent reading even above what is assigned, and you are encouraged to read 20-30 minutes daily from a book of your choice.

I assign homework to prepare you for the next day or to practice your skills.

Note: I will not grade the assigned Homework.

Homework Announcements: All assigned homework, assignments, projects, tests, and other coursework will be posted on the class whiteboard. Students will note the assigned tasks (homework, etc.) in their planners. In addition, Mrs. Bedi will try to announce the assigned homework assignments via a spreadsheet called "Homework Announcements" (posted in Google Classroom).

MLA Citations and Formatting: The Horner English Department follows the guidelines of MLA Style 9th edition for students to use when writing and structuring written papers.

Written Assignments: All written assignments and projects must be submitted as a printed copy or on Google Classroom, as per Mrs. Bedi's submission instructions.

Classwork and Homework: Assignments will be rigorous and frequent, with an expectation of high-quality, thoughtful responses.

Google Classroom: We will use Google Classroom as our LMS. All students will enroll in Google Classroom as instructed.

Writing Genres

- Explanatory/Informative
- Argumentative
- Narrative

Resources

- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt CA Collections textbook, also available [online](#)
- Close Reader workbooks (to be brought to school every day)
- Class set of novels (see below)

Literature Covered may include:

- Many selections from the CA Collections Textbook
- *New Kid* by Jerry Craft ([hard copy of the novel will be provided](#))
- *Inside Out & Back Again* by Thanhha Lai ([hard copy of the novel will be provided](#))

Skills-building resources may include:

- NoRedInk
- Commonlit
- Edpuzzle
- TedED
- Newsela

Please review the above syllabus with your student and sign and return this section to Mrs. Bedi earlier or by Friday, August 22, 2025.

Syllabus and AI Technology Usage Acknowledgment for Mrs. Bedi's English Class

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please review the following expectations regarding the syllabus and the responsible use of AI technology in our English class. Your support in promoting academic integrity and critical thinking is essential.

What You Can Do:

- **Discuss Academic Integrity:** Talk with your child about the importance of honesty and original thinking in all schoolwork.
- **Monitor AI Use:** Ensure your child uses AI tools (like ChatGPT or Grammarly AI, etc.) appropriately and per school and classroom policies.
- **Stay Informed:** If you have any questions about AI use or this policy, please contact Mrs. Bedi at nbedi@fusdk12.net.

By signing below, you acknowledge the following:

- **Syllabus:** I have reviewed the syllabus with my student, and we have agreed to follow the expectations outlined within.
- **AI Technology:** I understand the AI usage policy and the consequences of unauthorized use of AI tools for any English assignments in Mrs. Bedi's class.

Please Print Clearly

- Student Name: _____
- Class Period: _____
- Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signatures

- Student Signature: _____
- Parent/Guardian Signature: _____
- Date: _____

Comments / Questions:

(Please share any important information or questions you would like addressed.)