

## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

The purpose of this course is to provide grade 7 students opportunities to engage in learning using texts of appropriate complexity, and integrated language arts study in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language

### **STUDENTS WILL:**

- read and analyze different literary genres including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama.
- gather evidence, knowledge, and insight to answer text dependent questions.
- improve writing skills using a variety of texts and prompts.
- use speaking strategies effectively and understand the nature and power of language.

## **COURSE MATERIALS & TECHNOLOGY**

Florida is implementing its new B.E.S.T teaching standards this year. B.E.S.T is an acronym for Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking. Together with the new standards, Rushe Middle School students are using a new textbook this year titled Florida StudySnyc. The new textbook ties directly to the new state standards. An exciting new addition to the course material is a student workbook in which students can work directly with texts, using the workbook to identify and record their learning.

Additionally, students will use the on-line myLearning / Canvas course for 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA. Here they can find all the materials that will be used in the classroom. A weekly update will be sent at the beginning of each week in Announcements informing parents and students of the work that will be done in class that week.

**Supplies:** Each day students are expected to have all the necessary materials in class. Students should have a personal reading book or eBook with them at ALL times for designated silent reading time or in the event that work is completed early.

### **Supplies needed:**

- small three-ring binder
- three dividers: Do Now, Workbook Pages, Writing
- loose-leaf paper
- pencils and blue or black ink pens
- optional: one box of tissues and one roll of paper towels

## **GRADING & ADDITIONAL POLICIES**

**Grading Scale:** Final grades will be based on the following scale: **A**=100-90; **B**=89-80; **C**=79-70; **D**=69-60; **F**=59-0

**Areas of Assessment:** Students are formally assessed through tests, quizzes, and standards-based assignments.

**Homework:** There is no ongoing homework at this time. If students do not finish classwork within the allotted time, they will be asked to finish it at home or during A.I.R (All in Ravens) class/study hall.

**Late Work:** All assignments are due on their due dates. Students with unexcused absences may turn in late work at any time within the marking period for a reduction of 25% of points. A marking period consists of the

beginning of a quarter through progress report and from progress report through the end of the quarter. This policy is designed to encourage students to be responsible for their learning.

**Absences:** Successful students attend school every day. No amount of make-up work can compensate for missed class discussions and peer activities. However, some absences are unavoidable. **It is the student's responsibility to seek out missed work.** Online students and in-class students can find each week's work in the Announcements link in their MyLearning/Canvas course. The in-class students may also find missed work in the Assignment Calendar and Crate found in the classroom.

- If a student is quarantined, parents should first check Announcements in the student's myLearning/Canvas ELA account. In Announcements, a weekly update will be sent at the beginning of the week informing parents and students of the work that will be done in class that week.
- All documents needed for instruction will be housed in myLearning and will be updated regularly.

**\*Please send in a note or email to THE FRONT OFFICE to document your child's absence. Teachers cannot excuse an absence; only a note or email sent to the front office with a legitimate excuse can change an absence from unexcused to excused.**

#### **Controversial Issues - Per Board Policy- 2240**

The Board recognizes that a course of study or certain instructional materials may contain content and/or activities that some parents find objectionable. If after careful, personal review of the program lessons and/or materials, a parent indicates to the school that either the content or the activity conflicts with his religious beliefs or value system, the school will consider a written request for his child to be excused from a particular class for specified reasons. The student, however, will not be excused from participating in the course and will be provided alternate learning activities during times of such parent requested absences.

**Electronic Devices:** Cell phones, laptops, I-Pads, eBook readers, and other electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class unless I have given permission to use these devices for instructional use. Students will be reminded regularly through verbal and visual directives to follow this requirement. Some leeway will be given to students at the beginning of the school year to fully remember and implement this rule. However, students who continue to disregard this directive will receive the following consequences:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense: the device is taken away for the remainder of the period and given back at the end of class.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: the device is taken away and will be held until the end of the day. You may pick it up at the end of 6<sup>th</sup> period. A parent will be contacted.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: the device is surrendered at the beginning of class every day; it will be returned at the end of class. Duration of this consequence can and will be adjusted.
- You will be given permission to use your device when needed for an activity.

#### **Behavior Interventions:**

1. verbal warning
2. complete self-reflection form
3. seat change
4. lunch detention with parent contact
5. discipline referral with parent contact

If you have any questions about this syllabus, please contact me. I look forward to a great year of learning. Thank you for sharing your children with me.

Best Regards,  
Linda Almodovar