

Language Arts / 7th grade
2017-2018 School Year
Mrs. Julie Getz
610-866-5781
jgetz@basdschools.org

Message from the Teacher

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn." - Benjamin Franklin

Welcome class of 2023! Many people ask what I love most about teaching, and it's the interaction with middle school students. I strive to not just teach, but to inspire students to always do their best, to love learning, and to be a good person. In language arts class, we will focus on writing, and connect many of our writing projects to the novels in literacy class or core units from other academic subjects.

Written expression is a crucial part of communication and critical thinking. For middle school students, developing strong writing skills not only helps their grades, but also prepares them for their academic and professional futures. To create professional and mature writing, middle school students must learn to develop their ideas and proofread their written work before sharing it.

Clarity in writing is crucial to how the reader receives the text. Therefore, middle school students must employ proper grammar and punctuation in their writing. Understanding audience and learning to adjust to the needs of the audience is an important aspect of written expression.

Middle school students must learn to expand, explain and develop their ideas through their writing. The writing process can deepen students' critical thinking skills, not only in language arts, but in connection with other academic subjects as well.

Communication

The best way to contact me is through email. I can also be reached by phone. Please call with any concerns, questions, etc. and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Mrs. Getz's email address: jgetz@basdschools.org

Team Penn State Twitter: @NMSPennState

Team Penn State Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NMSTeamPennState>

Team Penn State Instagram: pennstatenms

Team Penn State Snapchat: NMSteamPSU

Course Description

The 7th grade language arts curriculum focuses on three main areas: literature, grammar, and composition. Through writing, the students will learn effective usage and recognition of grammatical elements. Teaching of the writing process will encompass several different modes of writing, including narrative writing, informational writing, argumentative writing, and multi-genre writing. In addition, the teaching of literature is aimed for students' responses in subjective, analytic, and evaluative ways.

Student Textbooks & Materials

The Language of Literature

The Writer's Craft

Supplemental teacher materials

Required Student Supplies

2 pocket folder
Pencil
Highlighter
Glue stick
Composition Notebooks

Major Course Objectives

- The student will be able to write narrative pieces, specific to a purpose and audience, which have clear organizational structure.
- The student will be able to write informational pieces (non-research based and research based), specific to a purpose and audience, which have clear organizational structure.
- The student will be able to write argumentative pieces, specific to a purpose and audience, which have clear organizational structure.
- The student will be able to write with an understanding of focus, content, organization, style and conventions.
- The students will be able to analyze characters, plots, and major themes in a piece of literature to form opinions and reactions.

Major Projects

1st marking period:

Narrative project – journal writing through the eyes of a child of the Holocaust

2nd marking period:

Non-research based informational project

3rd marking period:

Research based informational project – current event project/civil rights project

4th marking period:

Argumentative project – write an argumentative piece and defend the position

Additional Projects:

Possible additional projects: write an environmental children's book, and/or small writing assignments

*At least one of the major writing assignments will be presented as a speech/presentation

*All assignments are subject to change based on student interest and needs and novel connections in literacy class.

Teacher Homework Policy

Homework is given roughly 2-3 nights per week. Late daily homework assignments (that were collected and graded) will be accepted during the current unit only, however, points will be deducted. If the assignment was reviewed in class, the assignment will not be accepted after that point. Large projects and writing assignments will be deducted 5-10% for each day late. After 5 days, a maximum of half credit will be awarded. All assignments are given a point value based on the length and difficulty of the assignment. Students are expected to use their planners to record all assignments on a daily basis.

Teacher Grading Policy

The language arts grade is comprised from the following areas:

- Homework
- Projects
- Tests
- Quizzes

- Writing Assignments
- Classwork
- Class participation
- Writer's Notebook
- Responsibility

All assignments are given a point value based on the length and difficulty of the assignment. At the conclusion of the marking period, a percentage is calculated.

Points earned divided by *points possible* x 100 = percentage

Example: 465 (points earned) / 500 (points possible) x 100 = 93%

When students are absent, they will be granted extensions for assignments as needed. All assignments will be posted online within 2 weeks of the due date.

Classroom Management Plan

Student Expectations	Consequences
Be Here....Be Ready	Verbal Warning
Be Respectful	Student-Teacher Conference
Be Responsible	Teacher Detention
Be Actively Engaged in Learning	Parent/Guidance Contact
Follow Instructions the First Time	Code of Conduct Referral
Follow All Classroom Procedures	

We are respectful, responsible, focused learners!

Team Penn State Afternoon Detentions

- 3:05 - 3:45 after school
- Students will be given 24 hour notice of detentions
- Parents will be notified of the detention

Extra Help

After school help is available Monday-Thursday from 3:05-3:25, unless there is a scheduled meeting. Morning help is also available by appointment only. "Homework Hangout" is available Monday-Thursday with a Team Penn State teacher.