

## Middle School Language Arts Course Syllabus Saint Pius X Catholic School-2020-2021

<p><b>Saint Pius X School-336-273-9865</b> <b>www.spxschool.com</b></p>	<p><b>Julie Ray-Middle School Language Arts Teacher</b> <b>jray@spxschool.com</b> <b>Remote learners can use this email to pass in all assignments.</b></p>
<p><b>Classroom Rules</b></p> <p><b>Come to Class on Time</b> <b>Be Prepared and Ready to Learn</b> <b>Listen and Follow Directions</b> <b>Raise Your Hand to Speak</b> <b>Be Respectful of Others</b> <b>Ask Questions</b> <b>Always Do Your Best</b> <b>Try New Things</b> <b>Believe in Yourself</b> <b>Work Hard and Have Fun</b> <b>Most Importantly- Let God Lead</b></p>	<p><b>Jumpin' Jelly Beans</b></p> <p><b>When a student or the class as a whole does something kind or does something outstanding, either socially or academically, a jelly bean will be placed in their class jar. When the jar is full, the class will receive a reward, such as a special free time activity, a class party or a game.</b></p>

**Class Description:** This language arts class is designed to increase your communications skills through reading, writing, speaking, and the study of the English language. Our primary focus in language arts class will be mastery of different writing styles, demonstration of the rules of grammar, and the ability to express yourself orally.

This year you can expect to read a variety of fiction and non-fiction including novels, short stories, dramas, poetry, and essays. These writing pieces will model the different writing styles we will be working on ourselves. Writing assignments will include timed responses, book reports, poetry, essays, critiques, and creative pieces. Vocabulary, spelling, and grammar assignments will also be an important part of this class. Because we are a community of learners, please also expect to work periodically in group situations and to present information to your peers in groups or individually.

Please understand that at-home reading is expected and is a component of our course. You will be held accountable for at-home reading by various methods.

**Our major units of study will include but are not limited to:**

**Narrative**

**Expository(Descriptive, Explanation, Comparison/Contrast,Problem Solving)**

**Technical Writing (Friendly Letters, Thank You Notes, Instructions)**

**Persuasive Writing/Speech and Delivery**

**Poetry**

**Short Stories (Fluency and Construction)**

**Vocabulary**

**Grammar**

\*Throughout all of our writing, we will also utilize the multi-step writing process to develop, revise, evaluate, and improve our products. In our course of study in all the units, we will address the various elements of specific genres (including but not limited to organization, purpose, audience, narration, conflict, sound, graphics, tone, and theme).

**Projects:** 6th, 7th, and 8th graders will have either a project or a test after each novel that is read in class. Each grade will have a major project that will be presented at the end of May. These projects will be announced in October.

**Reading/Book Reports:** Each trimester the students will choose two books, within their Lexile range, to read. Each book will be from a specific genre. Upon reading the book, the students will complete a 'Book Report Form' to pass in for a grade. The book report assignments are counted as test grades. In the first trimester, the students will read one historical fiction and one science fiction. In the second trimester, the students will read one action adventure and one fantasy, and in the third trimester, the students will read one action adventure and one fantasy. The students will receive the book report forms and instructions within the first week of school.

**Renweb:** Renweb is your go to website for homework, lesson plans, and updated grades. Go to **renweb.com** Your login information can be obtained through school administration.

**Grading Policy:** In our class, you will be graded informally and formally each day, using several different types of assessments.

Here is the breakdown:

Homework/Class Participation-10 %	Projects-15%	Quizzes-15%
Writing Assignments-30%	Tests-30%	

**Required Materials:**

Pen/Pencils    Writing Binder with Six Dividers    2 Notebooks    Novels when Assigned    Bible (In Class)

Highlighters    Literature Binder with 10 Dividers    Loose leaf    *Grammar for Writing*    *Scope Magazine*

Recreational Book

**Returned Work:**

All work will be graded and returned in-class in a timely manner. Please allow a while longer for lengthier writing assignments. Students will have an opportunity to review their graded work, and then they will be asked to file the assignments into their English or Literature Binders.

**Assignments:** All assignments must be submitted by the given due date and are due at the beginning of the class period unless otherwise stated. Per the student handbook, a student, who does not have their assigned work will be

given a demerit. Missing/late assignments will lose 10% per day, with a maximum of five school days. After five school days, no late work will be accepted, and a zero will be recorded for that assignment. It is the student's responsibility to check with the teacher regarding any late/missed assignments and their due date. If a student is absent the day an assignment/project is due or a test is given, the assignment/project will be handed in or the test will be taken on the day the student returns to school. The absent student is responsible for gathering missed assignments upon their return to school. A student will have two days to make up missed work for everyday he/she was absent. Each grade will have a make up work folder in the back of the room next to windows. There will be one folder per grade. Students will place assignments that were missed in his or her appropriate grade folder. Missing a test review does not exempt a student from taking a test. Students should notify teachers of a planned absence.

**\*Please let me know regarding serious illnesses /emergencies, and we can be flexible about assignments.**

### **Cheating/Plagiarism**

Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic grade of zero. This includes copying homework, classwork, test answers, talking during a test or quiz, allowing someone to copy your work, and trying to pass off someone else's work as your own.

Parents, please fill out the attached slip and return it to your child's Language Arts teacher by the end of the week. Thanks very much!

**Mrs. Julie Ray**

### **Parents/Guardians:**

I have read the Syllabus for the Middle School Language Arts Class, and I understand the course's grading policy, homework policy, intended units of study, required notebook organization, and items that my child must bring in daily to be prepared.

Parent/Guardian signature:

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Child's name:

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**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_