

Welcome to Middle School Language Arts!



Communication

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Classroom Rules

- Respect yourself and others.
- Listen and raise your hand if you have a question.
 - Come to class prepared and ready to learn.
 - Respect other people's property.
 - Obey all school rules.

How Do I Calculate My Grades?

Homework/Classwork/Warm-Ups/Participation: 10 %

Quizzes: 15 %

Grammar/Projects: 15 %

Tests: 30 %

Writing: 30 %

Technology Resources

- RenWeb: RenWeb is your go-to website for homework, lesson plans, and updated grades. Your login information can be obtained through school administration.

renweb.com

- Turnitin.com: You will submit essays, research papers, and other written assignments to this website when instructed to do so. You must use your school Gmail account to set up and access your turnitin.com account.

www.turnitin.com

Username: _____

Password: _____

- SCOPE Scholastic Magazine: We will use this periodically throughout the year to read interesting articles, assist in crafting essays, and take quizzes on articles and stories we read together.

scope.scholastic.com

Click "Log in."

Click "I am a student."

Password: SPXCOMETS

- *See RC and DQ sections below*

An illustration of a three-ring binder. The text "Class Materials" is written in a large, bold, black font on the left side of the binder's cover. To the right of the binder, there is a list of items to be included in it.

**Class
Materials**

- RC Book.
- Pen/pencil, highlighter.
- Organized Language Arts binder with notebook paper and dividers.
- Homework (completed before arriving at school).
- Class novels (when they are assigned).

Assigned Work/Homework Policy

- All assigned work/homework should be completed *before* entering the school building.
- Per the student handbook, a student who does not have their assigned work/homework 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.
- If a student is absent the day a test is given or a project is due, the test will be taken, or project handed in, on the day the student returns to school. Missing a test review *does not* exempt a student from taking a test. It is the responsibility of the student to speak with his/her teacher before a planned absence, or for further clarification.

Acquiring and Submitting Make-up and Absent Work

- Regarding Absent/Make-up Work: Students may contact a friend to pick up work their work if they are absent from school. The absent student may also see the teacher upon their return to school to collect any missed work. (**NOTE:** 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 every day he/she was absent. Work submitted after that time will follow the missing/late assignment rules listed above in the "Assigned Work/Homework Policy" section. Remember, RenWeb.com is an excellent source for homework assignments and daily lesson summaries.
- Submitting Make-up and Absent Work: There is a make-up work folder for each grade level located on the back wall next to the flag. Students are responsible for knowing what work they missed and gathering that work from the correct folder. *Make-up work should be submitted in the white "Make-Up Work" bin at the back of the room.*

Writing

- Students are expected to follow the "MLA Format and Paper Requirements" handout for all formal writing assignments. It is mandatory that you keep a copy of this in your Language Arts binder. These requirements apply to projects, research papers, and essays. You are not required to type an assignment unless you are instructed to do so, but feel free to type any assignment you wish.

Book Checkout and Self-Selected Reading Books

- Book Checkout: Students may checkout books from the Language Arts classroom library as well as the school library. Students are allowed to checkout one book for a two-week increment from the classroom library. Each book contains a library checkout card, and the student must go to Mrs. Gardiner to check books in and out. Students must have Mrs. Gardiner's permission (and parent permission) to read a book from the classroom library. If a book is lost or misplaced, it is the responsibility of the student to replace it.
- Self-Selected Reading Books: Students are required and expected to have a self-selected reading book (RC book) with them every day in school. This is a book that the student has chosen for his or her pleasure-reading experience. Not having a book in class is equivalent to not having homework, and *will result in demerits*. Students may ask either Mrs. Christensen or Mrs. Gardiner for recommendations, and students will be allowed an appropriate amount of time to find new books. Teachers will determine if a book's Lexile level is inappropriate for a student, and may require that a student choose a different book.

Destiny Quest

- Students are required to write *one* book review on Destiny Quest *each trimester* that will count as a *writing grade*. The review must include a minimum of five complete and correct sentences. Those sentences must include: title of the book and author's name; personal opinion of the book; brief summary of the book that does not give away critical parts of the plot; and the age or grade range that the reviewer thinks appropriate for the book. A detailed rubric will be given to each student- it is mandatory that this be kept in the student's Language Arts binder.
- Destiny Quest is a website that can be accessed at home and at school. However, it is expected that these reviews be *completed at home* unless special permission is granted. It is recommended that you print a screenshot of the *approved* review and keep the printed copy in your binder each trimester. Students may not write reviews on class novels at any time. For calculating purposes, Destiny Quest reviews must be completed five days before the trimester ends. Due dates are listed below. There will be no exceptions- this is a long-term assignment and may be completed at any time during a trimester.

First Trimester DQ due Monday, November 4th before 3:10PM

Second Trimester DQ due Tuesday, February 18th before 3:10PM

Third Trimester DQ due Tuesday, May 26th before 3:10PM

Username: _____ Password: _____

RC's

- Students are required to take and pass *three* Reading Counts quizzes (RC's) each trimester. This will be a cumulative *test grade* each trimester- your three highest RC grades each trimester will be averaged and will equate to one test grade. Students may complete *one* RC on a class novel per trimester. Students must make an 80% or above to receive credit for a quiz. Any RC quiz grade below an 80% will not be counted towards the cumulative grade. Unless special permission is given, students *may not* retake a quiz if they do not pass it the first time. If the chosen novel does not have an RC quiz created for it, students may request an Alternate Novel Test from Mrs. Gardiner. This is a book summary guide that will be given to the student in class upon request. For calculating purposes, all RC tests must be taken five days before the trimester ends. Due dates are listed below. There will be no exceptions- this is a long-term assignment and may be completed at any time during a trimester.

First Trimester RC's Due Monday, November 4th before 3:10PM

Second Trimester RC's Due Tuesday, February 18th before 3:10PM

Third Trimester RC's Due Tuesday, May 26th before 3:10PM

Username: _____ Password: _____

Parent and Student Signatures

I acknowledge that I have received this syllabus, and agree that I have read and understand the information presented, as well as the due dates of the assignments listed:

Student Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____