

Middle Grades Language Arts Course Syllabus 2021-2022

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Course Description- This year in Language Arts we will read a variety of classical and multicultural literature—essays, poetry, short stories, folktales, biographies, plays, and novels. Students will learn to think about and respond to their reading through Project Based Learning, writing, literature circles, informal class discussions, creative presentations, problem solving, group work, Socratic Seminars, guest speakers, and research.

Our classroom will resemble a reading/writing/grammatical/vocabulary workshop as we learn, practice, and expand our skills as readers and writers. Throughout the year we will study Significant Details, Author's Purpose, Propaganda, Author's Tone, Attitude and Style, Story and Dramatic Elements, Making Judgments, Making Predictions, the Characteristics of Drama, Poetic Devices, Fiction and Nonfiction, Comparing and Contrasting, Similes and Metaphors, Literary Devices, Distinguishing between Fact and Opinion, Making Inferences and Drawing Conclusions, Cause and Effect, and the relationship between Problems and Solutions.

Each grade will explore themes such as but not limited to survival, identity, and morality within our selections.

Throughout the year we will be working on an "EXTREME WRITING" program designed to increase fluency (how fast a student can write on a topic). Fluency is often the forgotten component in writing. In addition to "EXTREME WRITING," the students will focus on the more traditional approach to writing; brainstorming, planning/prewriting, drafting, revising,

editing/proofreading and publishing (more commonly thought of when you think of the writing process).

In addition to selections we read in the classroom, students will read a novel each trimester. More information about those will follow as we begin the school year. There will be a project and/or a test to follow each novel, as well as a test at the conclusion of each textbook unit of study.

Grading- Students work will be weighted according to the following scale:

	<u>Effort Scale</u>
A- 100-90%	
B- 89-80%	E- Exceeds Expectations
C- 79-70% Expectations	S- Satisfactory/Meets
D- 69-65%	N- Area Needing Attention
F- 64%-below	NO- Not Observed

Materials- 3-ring Binder, loose leaf paper, Pencils, glue stick, composition book

We will use the **Merit/Demerit System-** please refer to the Saint Pius X Handbook

Organization, time management, and parental support are critical to the student's performance in this class. We are here to work together to ensure individual success and challenge the students to become self-disciplined and innovative critical thinkers.

We have a great deal of challenging, yet exciting, work ahead of us! With enough dedication, commitment, and collaboration on behalf of students, parents and teachers we are certain to supercede all of our outlined goals and expectations this school year. I am so thrilled to be at Saint Pius X and I look forward to working with your child to create a culture of lifelong learners.

Mrs. Erin Rainwater

Parent Signature _____

Student Signature _____