English Language Arts Policies

7th Grade Pre-AP/GT

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The FSMS 7th grade ELA philosophy is that an effective language arts program integrates reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, representing, and thinking in a meaningful way. Our goal is to create lifelong readers and writers

Throughout the year we will read assorted short stories, children’s books, plays, novels, poems, and articles to make connections between our reading and our writing. The course focuses on skills that enable students to become critical thinkers, readers, and writers. To demonstrate their abilities to analyze literature for literary techniques, students will learn to express and support their own ideas in written and oral communication using the appropriate terms. Students will have frequent reading and writing assignments both in and out of class. Students will do research and will have opportunities to present materials orally and artistically. I have outlined my policies below to give you and your parents a clear understanding of what is expected in order to have a successful year in my class.

**Rules/Procedures**

1. You need to come to my class prepared to work. Bring supplies and books to class every day. Write down

 assignments. The key word is **preparation**! And turn your assignments in on time ☺

2. Respect the feelings, property, and personal space of others. Respect the right of others to learn.

3. A uniform heading is required on all papers. You should include the assignment title on every paper as well.

 If you fail to put your name on an assignment, you will not receive credit for that assignment until you

 claim your paper from the “NO NAME” file.

4. Be in your seat before the bell rings. You should begin working on any warm-up activity as soon as you

 walk in the room. The teacher, not the bell, will dismiss class. Stay seated until I dismiss you.

5. Raise your hand and WAIT for permission before speaking.

6. Stay in your assigned seat unless given permission.

7. Your trash is your responsibility. Throw it away at the end of class on your way out of the room. Keep

 lockers and backpacks clean—it will make organization much easier!

8. Personal needs will be taken care of before you come to class. Go to the bathroom, water fountain, and

 locker before the bell rings.

9. Personal grooming in class is disruptive to other students. Brushing your hair, applying makeup, using

hairspray, nail polish, perfume, cologne, deodorant, lotion, or any other grooming aids should be done outside of class.

10. Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. Copying or allowing someone to copy test answers or

 homework, asking for or giving answers during a test, plagiarizing, or turning in any work that is not your

 own are all forms of cheating. If you choose to cheat, you will not receive credit on the assignment. Your

 parent(s) will also be notified of your conduct and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

## Retesting/Reassessment Policy

For major grades that you make below 70%, you have the opportunity to be reassessed to earn a grade no higher than 80%. Reassessment procedures may vary depending on the assignment. Students who failed and are wishing to be reassessed must attend a tutorial session prior to the reassessment and will complete the reassessment during tutorials. Students earning 70%-79% may have an opportunity to correct errors to earn up to 80% on the assignment.

**Late Work Policy**

Assignments are due when asked for, usually at the beginning of the period. If you fail to turn in an assignment when it is collected, it will be considered LATE. Students will receive partial credit for assignments turned in late—ten points will be deducted from the grade earned each day.

# Make-Up Work Policy

If you are absent from my class, it is YOUR responsibility to find out what you missed. I will not seek you out to tell you what you need to make up. See me for missed assignments. If you miss my class because of a school related event, it is your responsibility to get the work you will miss BEFORE you leave to avoid having points deducted for getting the assignment in late. The number of days missed with excused absences is equal to the number of days you have to make the work up. If you are absent when an assignment is due or on a test day, you may be responsible for turning in the assignment or taking the missed exam the day you return, especially if you were told about it prior to your absence.

# Materials for Class/On-Going Assignments

1. **Notebook:** I expect each of you to be organized. Therefore, you will need to keep a notebook for my class. In a three-ring binder, label dividers to separate these categories: (1) Reading Notes/Handouts (2) Writing (3) WOW (4)SAT Vocabulary (5) GUM (Grammar, Usage, & Mechanics). This policy handout will be the first page in your notebook.

2. **Spiral:** Since this is a language arts class, I will require you to read. What you read is your choice for the reading spiral.The book, magazine, article, etc… you read needs to be appropriate for your age and ability. If it is not, you will not get credit. The library will be accessible on a regular basis for the whole class as well as for individual needs. Most of the reading for this assignment will be done at home. To track your reading at home, you are responsible for maintaining a reading spiral to be checked throughout the grading period for completion and at the end of every nine week period. You will be responsible for 9 hours of reading, 9 Reading Responses, 6 Reading Vocabulary words, and 6 Literary Luminaries every 9 wks. This DOES NOT count reading material I have assigned for you to read outside of class.

3. **Literary Analysis:** In addition to tracking your outside reading with a reading log, you will complete at least 3 literary **analyses throughout the year** for a **major grade**. Due dates and project descriptions will be posted for each nine weeks period. These are in addition to any other projects we do with our class novels or literary study. The book you do your literary analysis over MUST be approved by me at least one week prior to the due date of the project. Failure to do so will result in points being deducted from your grade. Each nine weeks you will be responsible for choosing a book fitting the following categories; however, the specific genre of that category is your choice.

**First (due 2nd 9 wks): Reader’s Choice**

**Second (due 3rd 9 wks): 2013-2014 Lone Star**

**Third (due 4th 9 wks): Classic**

## 4. Novel Studies: We will be reading and annotating two novels over the course of the year. DO NOT WAIT until the last minute to buy your copy of the needed novel or you are likely to not find a copy anywhere in town! *Dark Water Rising* by Marion Hale and *Full Tilt* by Neal Shusterman are the books that we will be reading and annotating this year. While buying a copy of these books is NOT required, it is HIGHLY recommended for annotation purposes. We do have class sets of each novel that students can use at school.

## Grading System

**Daily Work (50%)** Daily grades consist of class work, homework, quizzes, vocabulary, class participation, etc…

**Major Grades (50%)** Major grades consist of unit tests, skills tests, timed writing, essays, reading analysis forms, reading response journals, projects, etc… The weight of each major grade will be announced when the assignment is given.

**Tutorial Schedule**

**Ms. Rizvi: Tuesday 8:15 – 8:45**

**Mrs. Miller: Thursday 8:15 - 8:45**

**Mrs. Perez: Friday 8:15 – 8:45**

Other tutorial times will be set on an “as needed” basis. If you need to get help, do not be afraid to ask!

We can make arrangements for additional tutorial times!