

SEVENTH GRADE ENGLISH

Our Goals

This year our goal is to become better listeners, readers, writers, and speakers, so that we may improve our capacity to learn, to question, and to examine ourselves as learners.

English 7 is a foundation course. We will look at writing as a multi-step process which begins with pre-writing and ends with the publication of our work. We will learn to write for different purposes and about many different topics. The other major component of our year will be our focus on literature. We will also improve our vocabulary and language arts skills.

We will prepare for ELA assessments by reviewing a four to five paragraph model of essay writing, practicing proofreading, and by taking practice exams.

REQUIREMENTS

- Regular and prompt attendance (excessive lateness and absence will negatively affect your grade)
- A three ring binder with four sections and a folder
- A blue or black pen and pencil everyday
- Be seated and prepared for class when the bell sounds

GRADING POLICY

- Exams, projects, papers and writing center assignments will count as 2/3 of your grade
- Each quarter students will receive a homework grade which will count towards their final grade as a full exam. Each missing homework assignment will subtract 5 points from that grade.
- Quizzes and short assignments will be worth 1/3 of your grade
- You will begin with a homework grade of 100%. For each assignment missed 5 points will be deducted from this grade.
- In the case of an absence students will have the phone numbers of two classmates so that all work can be made up and banded in upon return to class

Please Note:

In my assessment practices and instructional practices, I follow the teaching model of *Mastery Learning*. Mastery Learning does not affect the content of what we learn, merely the process of mastering it, and is based on educational psychologist [Benjamin Bloom](#)'s Learning for Mastery. This model of learning assumes that students will not move on to subsequent topics until they have mastered the topic at hand.

Toward that end, I will offer extra help to any student who is struggling with a topic or concept, and “re-takes” of tests, to help them achieve a grade that reflects mastery level learning. To be eligible for “re-takes” students must approach me for extra-help before the exam is taken. I offer extra help by appointment, mornings at 7 a.m. in H21 and occasionally after school if I am able.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

An assortment of **short stories** from the text, Stories to Enjoy.

Gathering Blue by Lois Lowry →

Messenger by Lois Lowry →


These two books are “companion books” to The Giver also by Lowry. Although it is not mandatory students who have not read The Giver May want to read it on their own time before we read these two novels.

My Brother Sam is Dead by Christopher James Lincoln Collier

Fever:1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson

The Contender by Robert Lipsyte

and

 A unit on **poetry** will be studied with emphasis upon writing, reading, appreciating poetry, and studying of figurative devices.

GRAMMAR

Heath Grammar and Composition will be used as our text book. The following aspects will be studied and assessed.

- The eight parts of speech -
- Subject — Verb agreement
- Word Usage
- Prepositional Phrases - identification and function
- Sentence patterns
- Run-ons and fragments - identification and correction
- Simple and compound sentences - identification and punctuation

Vocabulary Workshop, level B will be used to study at least five **vocabulary** units. There is a website for this workbook at www.vocabularyworkshop.com

Other Important Information

We have a class web page where we will take many of our tests and submit assignments. The site also provides class materials, hand-outs, PowerPoint® presentations used in class, learning games and activities, and links to other helpful websites.

There is also a calendar which students can use to check homework assignments or upcoming tests. However, students should rely primarily on their planners and copy homework assignments down during class. There will be times that the calendar is not up to date.

Students and parents can use a link from our class website to email me or use my school email listed below. I prefer email to voice mail and believe my response can be more immediate.

Class website: My web page is accessible through the Cold Spring Harbor website under “For Students” or by typing . <http://www.csh.k12.ny.us/webpages/JBORLAND> in your web browser. It also contains links to additional web based technology we will be using.

My preferred contact is my school email: jborland@csh.k12.ny.us