COURSE TITLE: Pre-AP 7th Grade Language Arts  
TEACHER: Mr. Juan Jimenez, M.S. Ed.  
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Direct Contact: (951) 490-4690 x27302

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

7th Grade Pre-AP Language Arts is a yearlong Honors level English course designed to develop critical skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking. The major emphasis of this course lies on literary analysis of literature and expository writing. The course is aligned the Common Core State Standards for California for English Language Arts. I hold my Junior Scholar classes to a higher level of maturity when dealing with the text and to a higher quality standard of work. This class will be rigorous and move at a faster pace in order to cover all the material so be prepared. Finally, I applaud you for taking on the challenge.

REQUIRED STUDENT MATERIALS TO BE BROUGHT TO CLASS DAILY:

- Pens (blue/black/red)
- Index cards (for vocabulary)
- Sharpener, stapler, small post-it notes, and an eraser
- Paper (college ruled)
- Two single subject notebooks. One per semester.
- One manila file folder.
- Binder (can be combined with other classes, but separate subjects with dividers)
- Novel being used that day (Refer to Course Outline for Required Novels)

EXPECTATIONS:

In order to foster a positive learning environment, you are expected to follow the established Vista Verde Middle School rules and my classroom rules. These rules include showing respect for staff and fellow students at all times. The following rules will apply in my classroom:

1. Bring all required books, assignments and materials to class.
2. Do your best and actively participate.
3. Follow school rules:
   - No phones, MP3 players out in class OR on during class.
   - No gum chewing, eating or drinking in class. (Sealable water bottle are okay)
   - No leaving class without permission.
   - Dress appropriately (dress code).
4. No sleeping OR resting head on desk at any time during class.
5. RESPECT everyone in the room at all times!
6. *I don’t know* is not an acceptable answer when called upon.
NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR BREAKING RULES:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense – Warning and clarification of expectations.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense – Pulled from group to new seat, isolation.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense – Sent to another classroom, parent phone call and 50 word behavior essay.
- 4<sup>th</sup> offense – Classroom detention, parent phone call, and low level office referral.
- 5<sup>th</sup> offense – Office Referral and on campus detention for the period or the day depending on the severity of the situation.

These consequences are in accordance with Vista Verde Middle Schools Positive Behavioral Expectations for the 2015-16 school year.

POSITIVE CONSEQUENCES:
1. Positive parent contact (note/call).
2. Good grades/participation points
3. Knowing your teacher is happy (…priceless)

PARTICIPATION POINTS (100 points per month):
In order to earn participation points, you must:
1. Be present (*Note: Excessive absences will adversely affect a student’s grade).
2. Be ready to work when the bell rings.
3. Bring all required books, tablet, assignments and materials.
4. Be on task and **PARTICIPATING** throughout the class period.
5. Following the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learner ideals of **communication** and **collaboration**.

Participation points are a way to reward those who always put forth effort and exhibit a proper attitude and are an encouragement for those who are not always meeting the above requirements.

TARDY POLICY:
- You lose participation points for every tardy. Tardies are cumulative each quarter.
- I will call home after two tardies and you will get a detention.
- I will abide by the school’s tardy policy for further tardies.

GRADING POLICY: Assignments will be weighted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25% - Essays/Tests/Quickchecks</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>85-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15% - Quizzes</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>75- 84.99%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15% - Class Work</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>65-74.99%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10% - Participation/Communication/Collaboration</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>55-64.99%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15% - Interactive Notebook</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0-54.99%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10% - Benchmark Assessments (BM/PBL)</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GRADE SCALE:
85-100% = A
75- 84.99% = B
65-74.99% = C
55-64.99% = D
0-54.99% = F
100% = Total
MAKE-UP WORK AND LATE WORK POLICY:
It is the student’s responsibility to see the teacher after class or after school for make-up work, immediately following an EXCUSED absence. Generally, an absent student has one day to make up missed work for each day absent. If a long-term project or paper was assigned that the student knew of prior to his/her absence, it will be due at the same due date that they were originally given; no additional time will be given. Tests/quizzes will be made up immediately upon return following an absence. Students who have not been absent but have chosen not to turn in an assignment on the due date may not turn in late work. **If the missing assignment is not made up after two weeks they will be zeroed out in the grade book and it cannot be made up.**

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:
Integrity is expected of you any time you submit an assignment. Plagiarism of any sort is strictly prohibited. Plagiarism is defined as using phrases, parts, or the entirety of the written works of other persons without proper citation. This includes not only fellow students, but persons with whom you have contact with outside of school, persons who have posted work on the internet, or persons who have written works that have been published in books, magazines, journals or newspapers. All written work that is not properly cited must be entirely original. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will receive the following negative consequences:
1. You will receive a referral.
2. You will be given a zero for the plagiarized assignment, without an opportunity to make up the grade for this assignment.
3. You will lose my trust and my belief in your integrity.
*Note: The same expectations and consequences apply to taking quizzes and tests.*

WARM-UPS:
Each day, there will be a warm-up activity on the board. These warm-ups require your full attention and should be done quietly, unless otherwise instructed by the teacher. Your warm-ups are to be brought to class EVERYDAY. Each week, warm-ups will be collected on Fridays they should all be in your interactive notebook. Warm-up’s **CANNOT** be made up.

EXTRA CREDIT:
Extra credit will not be available.

FINAL NOTE:
- I believe that education is a team effort among students, parents/guardians and teachers. If there is anything you or your parents would like to contribute to class, feel free to contact me.
- If you have any comments or questions about these procedures, please feel free to ask.
- If you have a special need, please feel free to share that with me.
- It’s easiest to contact me via e-mail. Also, I am available during lunch and after school.

I look forward to a great year!

Sincerely,
Mr. Jimenez