

English Language Arts

Course: We will work towards mastery of the Common Core State Standards in Writing, Listening, Speaking, and Reading. This class is a student-centered approach to teaching Language Arts, stressing **creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication**. In order to achieve this goal, we will emphasize **Problem Based Learning and Socratic Seminar**.

Curriculum: Holt
Houghton Mifflin
Pearson

Core Literature:
See Page 2

Benchmark Assessment: At the end of all trimesters, students will display their mastery of argumentative, informative, and/or evidence-based narrative technique as well as command of grammar and conventions. Because they are benchmark assessments and measure cumulative knowledge, they will be included in final trimester grades. Assessments will be on-going throughout the year.

Homework:

Students will have 15-30 minutes of homework nightly Monday through Friday, excluding days of tests or quizzes. *Honors students will have additional homework.* Homework will be a combination of preparation for Problem Based Learning or Socratic Seminar, writing, reading, and/or studying. *Honors students will also be required to compose essays and complete projects independently.* Assignments, handouts, and upcoming due dates will be available on the Los Cerritos website-link will be listed by teacher.

Work Habits and Citizenship:

Work Habits: In order to earn an E in work habits **ALL work** must be turned in on time, complete, and neat. Students must be prepared every day with required supplies and texts and be ready to participate in Problem Based Learning collaboration and Socratic Seminar. Students must consistently collaborate with peers to problem solve and complete tasks maintaining on-task behavior. *For excused absences, students will have one day for every day of an absence to make up work. Weekends count as two days of make-up time. For absences due to student activities, work must be completed and turned in before the absence or on time.* Finally, students are required to check the homework website daily, taking responsibility for their work, due dates, and make up work.

Citizenship: In order to earn an E in citizenship, students must arrive to class, be in their seats and ready to learn by the time the bell rings. Students' conversation must be on topic throughout the period. Students are expected to be respectful of teacher/guest teachers and peers, be diplomatic, and participate during collaboration. Students must respect the space of

the classroom, cleaning personal space, and pushing in chair before the bell rings. Students will engage in class appropriate behavior. Water is allowed in the classroom. Students may not ask to leave the classroom in the first and last 10 minutes of the class period as roll is taken in the first minutes of class, and review of classwork/homework is completed at the end of the period, and students will not be allowed to go to their lockers for materials and/or assignments they have forgotten.

Supplies

1. 1 spiral bound notebook, (to be used for all English notes, which will be used for the entire school year. These are not to have pages ripped out or be used for other subjects.)
2. Loose leafed college ruled lined paper
3. Section in binder for English or English binder
4. Black or blue ink pens.
5. Colored pencils or markers
6. Highlighter(s)

Supplies are due Tuesday, August 30th.

Teacher Wish List

Tissues
Wipes - Antibacterial ☺
Sharpie Flip Chart Markers
3M Post-it Poster sized chart paper
5x7 Index cards
Paper Mate Flair Felt Tip Pen Set
Highlighters

Teacher Contact:

We send occasional whole classroom emails to inform parents of vital classroom information and how parents can assist their students' success. If you need to communicate, please access your teacher directly through the LC website. We periodically check phone messages; however, email is preferred.

I/We have read and understand the above information. My student has regular access to a computer for word processing and internet assignments.

We look forward to an exciting and productive year with your students.

Please sign and return by Monday, August 29th.

Student and Period (PLEASE PRINT NAME)

Parent/Guardian (PLEASE PRINT NAME)
Parent/ Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian email (PLEASE PRINT EMAIL CLEARLY)

Conejo Valley Unified School District Board approved core literature:

7th Grade Honors

The Giver by Lois Lowry

The Martian Chronicles by Ray Bradbury

A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare

A Christmas Carol (Anthology Collection -time permitting)

7th Grade CP

The Giver by Lois Lowry

A Christmas Carol (Anthology Collection)

A Mango-Shaped Space by Wendy Mass

8th Grade Honors

Between the Lines

by Samantha Van Leer and Jodi Picoult

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

The Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare

Night by Elie Wiesel

Animal Farm by George Orwell (Time permitting)

8th Grade CP

Between the Lines

by Samantha Van Leer and Jodi Picoult

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

Night (Anthology Collection)

*Please note, some novels include controversial topics.

*Teachers will utilize a variety of above listed novels throughout the school year.