

AEP MIDDLE-SCHOOL ENGLISH AND LANGUAGE-ARTS SYLLABUS

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Attendance:

Roll will be taken daily and all absences and tardiness recorded. A detention will be given for every tardy after the third offense.

Overview of the Class:

English and literature are combined for a 2-hour block. The year will be segmented into modules. Each module is built around the Louisiana State Standards for English and Language Arts using the Louisiana Guidebooks. Each module will have an anchor text. This text may be a book, speech, chapter, or other text that the whole class will read and study together. Along with the anchor text, there will be 2-3 supporting fiction texts and 2-3 supporting non-fiction texts. The fiction pieces can include poems, short stories, plays, excerpts from novels, and other literary works. The non-fiction pieces can include articles, biographies, text books, and visual displays of information like maps, graphs or charts.

Along with reading the texts, students will be writing for a variety of purposes. Analytical writing will be emphasized. This type of writing puts a premium on using evidence to make a claim and then supporting that claim with a coherent and logical evidence and explanation. Narrative writing is included in the modules and helps to deepen students' understanding of literary structures, develop the ability to sequence events, and explore the use of descriptive language. At the completion of each unit students will complete an extended culminating writing task. This will be the biggest writing grade of each unit.

Research will also be a component of our class. Students will research a topic, problem, or issue related to the theme of each module. With such research, students will practice evidence gathering, assessing the credibility of sources, citing resources, and presenting information. Research will culminate in a variety of ways including oral presentations and written reports.

The study, analysis, and application of grammar and vocabulary will be embedded in the reading and writing of each module. Grammar will be an everyday part of what students do and will be taught through literature and writing. The skills will also be targeted and developed as needed. Vocabulary will come from the texts in an authentic way to increase understanding.

Grades:

Students will be given ample opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned each quarter through a variety of formal and informal assessments. All grades will be done on a point system. Each grade that is taken will be given a point value according to the number of questions and amount of material covered for that quiz, test, or assignment. Multiple quizzes and tests will be given throughout the nine weeks. Each quarter students will have an independent reading and

AR requirement and a grade is taken for their reading. This varies by grade and class. Cold-read assessments will also be used in each module. Here students will be asked to read a new text in order to assess whether students can read and apply the same level of understanding as they did to the texts studied in each module.

Completing homework is a vital part of a student's overall success in the classroom. Homework checks will be taken as a part of their grades. Homework grades are a check to see if students completed their homework or not. Students that do not complete their homework will receive a zero. There will be no incompletes given for homework.

Late Assignment Policy:

Assignments are due at the BEGINNING of class on the day they are due. Ten percent of the overall point value will be deducted for every day that the assignment is late. After the third day, a zero will be given for the assignment.

Notification of D or F average on Tests:

If a student does poorly on an assessment – earns a ‘D’ or an ‘F’ – the test will be sent home to be signed. The test needs to be returned the following day. If a child fails to return signed tests we will no longer send home tests. Parents will be notified and may schedule a conference to view the test at school. Upon parent request, any graded test can be sent home for review or clarification. These graded tests must be returned to school. A file will be kept containing each student's graded papers (test, quizzes, graded writing) for parents to view or discuss if needed. Parents may access students' grades online at all times on the Parent Command Center.

Behavior:

Behavior should not be seen as restrictive or punitive. It is a set of guidelines that allows us to maximize our instruction time in an environment that is safe, supportive, and hopefully, at times, FUN! Students should not participate in any behavior that prevents themselves or others from learning. Students are responsible for their own behavior and learning. They should participate in classroom discussions, give attention and respect to the teacher and others, and come to class prepared. Bathroom breaks are scheduled and should result in the loss of instructional time.

Discipline:

Please refer to the Middle School Classroom Expectations document.

Computer Usage:

Please refer to the Computer and Internet Usage Policy.

Please feel free to contact us with any particular questions or concerns. We are looking forward to a great year!