



Language Arts / Social Studies Course Syllabus

Cicely L. Tyson Middle/High School

2016-2017

Ms. Rivera

Room # 110

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Ms. Sangster

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**While email is the preferred method of communication, teachers may also be reached by calling the main office.
Dial (973) 414-8600 ext. 53110**

Class Description: This Language Arts/Social Studies class is designed to increase your communications skills through reading, writing, speaking, and the study of the English language. Our primary focus in Language Arts/Social Studies class will be mastery of different writing styles, demonstration of the rules of grammar, and the ability to express yourself orally and explore the world from a historical and present day point of view.

This year you can expect to read a variety of fiction and non-fiction including novels, short stories, dramas, poetry, and essays. These writing pieces will model the different writing styles we will be working on. Writing assignments will include timed responses, journal writing, essays, critiques, and creative pieces. Vocabulary, spelling, and grammar assignments will also be an important part of this class. Because we are a community of learners, please also expect to work periodically in-group situations and to present information to your peers in groups or individually.

Please understand that at-home reading is expected and is a component of our course. You will be held accountable for at-home reading in various genres, as assigned.

Our major units of study will include but are not limited to:

- Narrative writing
- Expository writing (descriptive, explanation, comparison and contrast, problem/solution)
- Technical writing (friendly letters, thank-you notes, instructions, web pages)
- Persuasive writing/Speech writing and delivery
- Poetry
- Short stories
- Mythology/Folklore
- Sentence Fluency and Construction
- Vocabulary
- Standard grammar and mechanics

*Throughout all of our writing, we will also utilize the multi-step writing process to develop, revise, evaluate, and improve our products. In our course of study in all the units, we will address the various elements of specific genres (including but not limited to organization, purpose, audience, narration, conflict, sound, graphics, tone, and theme).

FOCUS:

You are able to see your up-to-date class average at any time on the East Orange School District website, FOCUS. Parents must obtain a username and password from the main office. Check this site often to see if your child/children are missing assignments in Language Arts/Social Studies.

Homework:

Homework assigned Monday through Friday for Language Arts and Social Studies.

Projects:

Semester projects are assigned for Language Arts and Social Studies.

Grading Policy:

In our class, students will be graded informally and formally each day, using several different types of assessments.

Here is the breakdown:

*Homework—15%

*Projects—20%

100%-90% =A 79%-70% = C 64%-below =F

*Quizzes—15%

*Class work—30%

89%-80% = B 69%-65% =D

*Tests—20%

Required Materials:

* Binder

* 5 Dividers

* Notebook paper

* Writing Utensils (Black/blue pens or mechanical pencils are required.)

Returned Work:

All work will be graded and returned in-class in a timely manner. Please allow a while longer for lengthier writing assignments. Students will have an opportunity to review their graded work. Portfolios are used to gauge student progress throughout the year.

Assignments: All assignments must be submitted by the given due date and are due at the beginning of the class period unless otherwise stated. All homework is due the next day unless otherwise stated.

Late Assignments/Missed Work: Any assignments not received on or before the due date are considered late. In order to receive credit for any missed assignments, students must have an excusable absence, tardy, or early dismissal. It is the student's responsibility to check with the teacher regarding any late/missed assignments and their due date.

Cheating/Plagiarism

Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic grade of zero. This includes copying homework, classwork, test answers, talking during a test or quiz, allowing someone to copy your work, and trying to pass off someone else's work as your own.

Parents please fill out the attached slip and return it to your child's Language Arts teachers by the end of the week. Thanks very much!

Sincerely,

Ms. Rivera @ Ms. Sangster

Parents/Guardians:

I have read the Syllabus for the Language Arts/Social Studies Class, and I understand the course's grading policy, homework policy, intended units of study, required notebook organization, and items that my child must bring in daily to be prepared.

Parent/Guardian signature:

Child's name:

Date: _____