

LANGUAGE ARTS

Dear Parent(s),

Hello! My name is Mrs. Rosen and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to another exciting year at Jackson Memorial Middle School. I am thrilled to be your student's 7th grade Language Arts teacher!

I know the beginning of the school year is chock full of more "reading material" than you might imagine possible. However, please take the time to read over the following course outline for my class with your student. In doing so, students will better understand the expectations, policies, and procedures that lay the foundation for their success in the upcoming school year.

It is also very important that the information sheet is filled out by both the parent and student and returned to school no later than **Wednesday, August 21st.**

I believe that communication between parents and teachers is crucial to the success of our students. In order to communicate effectively with parents, I have created a Polaris website to provide easy access to information and updates. I will use my Polaris and email to communicate important information about assignment due dates, projects, and other activities.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am available to students for questions or additional help with assignments. I look forward to an incredible school year!

Kind regards,

Mrs. Ashley Rosen
arf2jc@jackson.sparcc.org
330-830-8034 ext. 3264
<https://www.jackson.stark.k12.oh.us/Page/8762>



Mrs. Rosen's Course Outline

7th Grade Accelerated Language Arts, 2019-2020

Course Goals

Each student will have the opportunity to be successful by

- Closely reading and analyzing fiction and nonfiction texts
- Composing original written pieces through writer's workshop
- Conducting research and presenting findings
- Engaging effectively in collaborative discussions

Classroom Expectations

1. Work hard.
2. Stay humble.
3. Be kind.

Grading Policy and Late Work

Grades will be posted in SunGard. Students will be graded on their ability to meet the established criteria for each assignment using the following grade scale:

A = 90-100 C = 70-79 F = below 59
B = 80-89 D = 60-69

Product Grades

Product points account for 85% of a grade. They are earned through writing assignments, assessments, projects, culminating activities, and more. For each day that a product assignment is late, it will be docked one letter grade (10%).

Process Grades

Process points account for 15% of a grade. They are earned through homework, journals, writing assignments, reading checks, and more. Process assignments will earn ½ credit if submitted one day late; no credit will be earned for assignments turned in two or more days late.

Polaris

The agenda for class is posted on Polaris each day. Assignments are also posted, and sometimes submitted, on Polaris. It is the student's responsibility to check Polaris for makeup assignments when absent.

Classroom Library

There are hundreds of books in the classroom library that students are encouraged to borrow and read. If a student loses or damages a classroom library book, it is his/her responsibility to replace the book. A physical copy of the book must be provided as a replacement.

Technology Policy

Students may use devices during class ONLY with the expressed permission of the teacher. With the district's 1:1 Chromebook initiative, students will frequently use devices in the classroom. If a student is using a device without permission, the situation will be addressed in accordance with school policy.

Homework

Students are expected to read their current book for at least 20 minutes each day.

Extra Credit

Extra credit will be offered throughout each quarter, with the exception of the last week in each grading period. Extra credit cannot exceed 1% of final quarterly grades.

Absences

It is the student's responsibility to make up all materials resulting from an excused absence. Students should check Polaris for make up work when returning to school. Students will have one day for make up work for each day missed.

Retake Policy

Retakes and rewrites will be offered on some assignments for students who are not missing any other assignments. It is the student's responsibility both to schedule a time to retake the assessment and to obtain a pass for the scheduled time.

Materials

- a charged Chromebook
- the book you are currently reading
- pencils, colored pens, and highlighters

Discipline

Decision making is essential to student growth. Therefore, there are consequences for poor decisions. Students will first be given a warning. If the situation persists, a detention or further consequences will be pursued in accordance with school policy.

Contact Information

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Student and Parent Information

Student Name and Language Arts Class Period	_____
Student Assist (S.A.) Teacher and Weekdays	_____
Parent(s): Name Phone Number Email Address	_____ _____ _____

Preferred method of communication (circle one): *phone call* *email*

Does your child have any health conditions that I should be aware of?

Please share with me any additional information I should know about your child that will help me get to know them a little better! (*learning style, personality, motivators, etc.*)☺

In order to ensure that you both read and understand Mrs. Rosen's classroom policies, please sign and return this form by Wednesday, August 21st.

I have reviewed the classroom policies.

Student signature _____ Date _____

Parent signature _____ Date _____

Student Choice Book Selection

Dear Parent,

The 7th grade language arts classes no longer exclusively use a literature textbook. This decision is based on research-based methods, along with Common Core State Standards. This year, teachers will employ a workshop approach in an effort to meet the needs of all levels of students. The goal is to help students become critical thinkers and habitual readers for the rest of their lives. **This approach requires that each student select a choice book**, with selections alternating between free choice and titles grouped thematically at grade-appropriate Lexile levels. Students will be responsible for reporting their reading status each week. It is imperative that students are consistently reading choice books, as core classroom lessons and skills are based on choice books (as well as anchor texts). Students are also required to bring their books to class each day and may be penalized participation points for not doing so.

Please monitor your student's choice book selections. Today's young adult literature explores many issues that teens may encounter in their lives, including content that you may feel is too mature for your student. Additionally, as students' Lexile levels increase, so may the maturity of the content. You know your child best. Parents have the ultimate say in what they feel is appropriate for their child.

If you have any questions, please contact me. I would like to thank you in advance for your support as I strive to meet the needs of all students.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Rosen

Printed Student Name _____

Parent Signature _____