



Deer Valley Unified School District No. 97

21100 N 27th Avenue Phoenix AZ 85027 ❖ DEER VALLEY MIDDLE 623-445-3300 ❖ 623-445-3380 (Fax) ❖ dvms.dvusd.org

Language Arts Deer Valley Middle School Syllabus 2013-2014



Teacher: Ms. Beth Fay
Room: 309
Prep: 6th Period (2:02-3:00p.m.)

E-mail: Beth.Fay@dvusd.org
Voice Mail: (623) 445-3375
Website: <http://dvmsfaylanguagearts.weebly.com>
Reminder Text Messaging Service: (623)738-0513/message:@8fayela

Course Description

8th Grade Language Arts is designed for highly proficient, adolescent readers and writers, and involves reflecting on and responding to challenging, quality literature and authentic documents that correspond with students' intellectual abilities. Students will be challenged and encouraged to think in new ways in order to broaden perspectives and to create a learning environment that constantly encourages students to enhance their critical thinking skills in relation to Language Arts. This course is aligned with the Common Core standards.

Course Objectives

Through integrated thematic units of study based on an Essential Question, students will be able to:

- Effectively access and use information from reading (research component with textual evidence and technology)
- Demonstrate effective communication (speaking, writing, technology presentations)
- Use critical thinking and creativity to solve problems (higher level thinking, varying points of view)
- Develop reading comprehension and fluency through the use of Reading Plus, an online program that targets student needs

Materials/Supplies

Text Book: *Holt Elements of Literature (Holt Rinehart and Winston)*

Online Resources: Students can, and are encouraged to access readingplus.com from home to improve their grade.

Supplies: In addition to a class binder, students need to come to class with their checked out library book, a blue or black pen, pencil, highlighter, and a spiral notebook or lined paper. Students are welcome to bring their own supplies, such as coloring pencils, scissors, mini-staplers, and a personal three-hole-punch to class. If we are completing a special project that requires more materials, I will let you know in a letter later in the school year. Families are welcome to donate any materials to class that they wish to share (i.e. paper towels, glue, tissue, markers, colored pencils, pens, lined paper, highlighters, etc.)

Progress Reports

Progress reports are available on PowerSchools, and will go home weekly on every third Friday for all students, and every Friday for "D" and "F" students with **the expectation that students will attend after school tutoring on Tuesday or Thursday.**

PowerSchools Access Information

Parents/Guardians who do not have a login code for their child can get one at the front office. An I.D. will be required to receive your password. The PowerSchools site allows parents/guardians and students to access the student's grades, attendance, and other information.

The web address is: <http://ps.dvusd.org/public/>

Grading Policy

Standards-based grading practices will be used to indicate academic performance solely related to the 8th Grade English Language Arts Common Core Standards. Students will receive tutoring and retake any assessment on any standard they have not mastered. Quarterly finals are not able to be retaken. Retakes and late work must be submitted two weeks prior to the end of each quarter.

Additionally, students are expected to complete daily formative or practice assignments to reinforce skills and concepts learned in class, but will not always be factored into a student's final grade. There will be no opportunities for extra credit.

| Category | | Percentages | |
|----------------------------|-----|-------------------|------------|
| Formative | 0% | A | 90-100% |
| Speaking/Listening | 20% | B | 80-89% |
| Writing | 20% | C | 70-79% |
| Reading Informational Text | 20% | D | 60-69% |
| Reading Literature | 20% | F | 50-59% |
| Language | 20% | Incomplete | 49% |

*Missing or incomplete work will be recorded as a 49% (4.9 out of 10). Students may turn in missing or incomplete work at the teacher's discretion for full credit up through the last two weeks of the quarter. Zeros will be avoided as much as possible. Zeros are considered counterproductive towards student achievement on a standards based grading scale.

Teacher Tutoring Times or Extra Opportunity

Teachers are available for extension of learning.

(Tuesdays and Thursdays: Bus transportation is provided with a 4:15 pick up.)

Communication

Please contact the teacher for any student concerns. It is crucial that teachers, parents, and students maintain open lines of communication. Contact information is provided at the top of this page. Please refer to my website for all information needed for this course.

Student Expectations

English Language Arts is a rigorous course. As such, students are expected to work to the best of their ability to complete the assignments for class. Many assignments will require work to be completed outside of the classroom. Students need to be motivated to put forth the effort required in order to complete such assignments; doing so will allow for students to spend more time engaging in critical and analytical discussions with their peers in the classroom. Students are expected to keep a C or higher average in Language Arts. Any students who fail to meet the expectations for the course will go through the following steps:

1. Meet with teacher to discuss behavior and work ethic
2. Teacher will contact parents about situation
3. Student will attend tutoring on Tuesday and Thursday
4. Continued failure will result in a parent/teacher/student conference to establish a contract for more involvement in their education (RTI-A). Non-academic behavior issues will be handled separately (RTI-B).

I look forward to working with you and your child. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ms. Fay

The Deer Valley Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. For any inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies contact the Superintendent's Department. 20402 N. 15th Avenue. Phoenix. AZ 85027. 623.445.5000.

I have enclosed a letter for parents fill out. I would love to know more about your child, and anything you feel I should know is greatly appreciated. I want to be able to support your child. I have also included some lines for your contact information, which will help me make positive contacts with you.

Dear Ms. Fay,
What I want you to know most about my child is.....

My contact information is:

Email _____
(this is the easiest way for me to contact you!)
Parent Name _____
Home Phone _____
Cell Phone _____

Tutoring Permission Slip

As stated earlier, students will need to attend tutoring if they do not show mastery in content, or if they have a grade of a "D" or "F". Tutoring will also be an opportunity to extend learning.

_____ I will allow my student to attend after school tutoring. My child will get home by...
_____riding the bus at 4:15 _____walking _____parent pickup
_____ I will not allow my student to attend after school tutoring.

Student name _____

Parent Signature _____

3:15-4:15 Phone# _____

Movie/Video Clips Permission Slip

During the school year DVMS teachers may show movies or video clips rated PG and PG-13. We would like your permission for your child to be able to watch these.

Please check two of the following, thank-you!

_____ I will allow my student to watch PG rated movies.
_____ I will not allow my student to watch PG rated movies
_____ I will allow my student to watch PG-13 rated movies.
_____ I will not allow my student to watch PG-13 rated movies.

Student name _____

Parent Signature _____

*******Please return this paper by Friday, August 16, 2013.*******