

## **Immaculate Heart Middle School**

### *Syllabus for Seventh Grade English & Literature*

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This course is designed to improve the student's use of both written and spoken English. Students will enhance reading comprehension and critical thinking through various types of literature.

### **Benchmarks and Performance Standards**

Students completing course work for writing, speaking, and listening will:

- Write and speak using Standard English conventions appropriate to grade level.
- Identify parts of speech and sentence structures.
- Demonstrate correct use of punctuation and capitalization.
- Use correct spelling applying the spellings of bases and affixes to root words and also by utilizing a dictionary and spell check.
- Place modifiers properly, use the active voice, identify and use infinitives and participles, make clear references between pronouns and antecedents.
- Write and present to the class or groups organized, coherent narratives, responses to literature, persuasive compositions, and summaries.
- Exercise speaking techniques including voice modulation, inflection, tempo, enunciation and eye contact for effective presentations.
- Organize information in presentations to appeal to the audience.
- In writing include strong introductions and conclusions, concrete details and main ideas, and commentaries. Develop and complete narratives, responses to literature, and persuasive compositions.
- Utilize editing and revision to improve the overall content, organization, and vocabulary.
- Give credit for quoted and paraphrased information with proper citations.
- Use word-processing skills or carefully written cursive.
- During class discussions, determine the speakers' or authors' attitudes conveyed in their presentations or literature and ask probing questions.

Students completing course work for vocabulary, reading and literature will:

- Use knowledge of word origins, in addition to context clues to determine the meaning of vocabulary.
- Interpret word meanings through the use of definition, example, restatement or contrast.
- Recognize idioms, analogies, metaphors, and similes in prose and poetry.
- Read, understand, and respond to various forms of literature that reflect and enhance their studies of history and social science.
- Identify and analyze recurring themes and purpose in literary works.
- Analyze character's thoughts, words, actions or those of other characters by the author or narrator's description.

- Recognize events that advance the plot and conclude how each event explains past or present actions or foreshadows future actions.

**Policies and Procedures**

**Grades:**

Students will earn class grades by completing homework, class work, oral and written presentations, tests, quizzes, and semester examinations. Any oral and written presentations will be graded on a rubric that will be given to students in advance. Active participation in class will aid in the class grade. The following grade scale will be used:

A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62
			F 0-59

**Homework:**

Grammar packets will be distributed at the beginning of each week, and from the packets students will be given homework regularly. Additional homework tasks will be given for literature and writing. Late homework will be marked down a point each day it is late; after the third day homework will not be given credit, however, it is expected to be completed. Homework and all other class updates will be listed on my website and inside the classroom.

**Tests and Quizzes:**

Tests and quizzes will be given to students covering grammar, vocabulary, and literature. With the exception of pop quizzes, students will be notified well in advance of test dates. The dates of tests and quizzes will be posted on the classroom whiteboard and the school website. Make-up tests will only be given to students who were absent on the day of the scheduled test. It is the **student's responsibility** to schedule a time to make-up the test.

**Absences:**

A student who has been absent **must make-up all work** that was missed while she was absent. All work that was missed due to the absence will be given a due date. It is **the student's responsibility** to obtain missed notes and assignments and to schedule make-up tests/quizzes with the teacher as she returns to school.

**Extra Credit:**

No extra credit is offered in this course.

**Classroom Guidelines:**

- Arrive to class on time. Room 110 is located in the basement so students should plan ahead, especially if traveling from the pool or Room 303.
- Enter the class prepared and ready to work. *Work hard!*
- *Treat others with respect.*
- Do not be afraid to try something new or difficult!
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated. You must present your thoughts in your own words.

**Textbooks, Novels and Plays Provided for Course:**

**English Workshop**, Holt, Rinehart and Winston

**John Warriner's English Composition and Grammar**, Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich

**Tales from World Epics**, Amsco Publications

**Chains**, Laurie Halse Anderson

**The Giver**, Lois Lowry

**Fever 1793**, Laurie Halse Anderson

**The Search for Delicious**, Natalie Babbit

**Gathering Blue**, Lois Lowry

**A Midsummer Night's Dream**, William Shakespeare

I have read and understood the class syllabus for English & Literature 7.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_