Mrs. Mullins~7th Grade

Language Arts Syllabus 2011-2012

Welcome to the 7th grade at Kelly Middle School. I am looking forward to being your child's teacher-we should have an awesome year and learning experience together!

Let me tell you a little about myself. I was raised in East Detroit and went to Oakwood and then E.D.H.S. I have been teaching for 18 years-17 at Oakwood and 1 year at Kelly. I have two sons-ages 8 and 11-and a 19-year-old step-daughter.

I am very passionate about Language Arts-I love reading and writing. This is a very important year for your child-and I want to teach them as much as I can…..

**Class Outline~**Language Arts has many facets. It includes spelling, vocabulary, grammar, reading, poetry, writing, communication and speaking skills. We will start the year with a review of test taking strategies and prep for the ELA MEAP test. 7th grade students will take both a reading and writing test this year. They will start the year off with an Autobiography Project due at the end of September.

After the MEAP will start our 1st unit-"Problem Solving/Mysteries." We will read our first novel, Touching Spirit Bear and stories/articles from our textbook. I plan on keeping a class set of these books in my room, rather than sending them home. We will be writing at least one essay and one research project in the 1st semester as well.

Our second semester unit is "Facing Challenges"-with an intense study of civil rights. For both units we will read a variety of material-novels, short stories, legends, and informational text. Once again we will read from our class textbook. We will also read the screenplay “Glory Road” and a novel-Bad Boy a memoir by Walter Dean Myers. Each unit includes assessments-test, essay, and or project. We will also complete Biography Oral presentations, a poetry unit, and study Greek Mythology.

We do a lot of writing in 7th grade: essays, letters, memoirs, myths and legends, creative writing, poetry, position /organizational writing, informational writing, and a research paper. Your child should improve, expand, and strengthen his or her writing skills.

**Grading~**Students will be given a percentage grade.

A=100-92 A-=91-90 B+=89-88 B=87-82 B-=81-80 C+=79-78

C=77-72 C-=71-70 D+=69-68 D=67-62 D-=61-60 F=59-0

Homework=20% DWAs/Classroom Assignments/Participation=20% Tests/Quizzes/Projects/Essays=60%

**Extra Credit**~This is given periodically on tests and projects.

~ Independent Reading (Book Report) extra credit assignments are offered every quarter

~Blogging-students can post comments on my blog at www.lmullins.weebly.com. and receive extra credit. All posts must be approved by me before they are published . I encourage students not to post their last names-they should use first name, last initial and hour.

**Homework**~Turn homework into RED BIN at the beginning of the hour.

~Homework assigned cannot be turned in until the following day-that way it comes home for parents/guardians to see.

~Assignments are expected to be turned in on time. Homework is due the day after it is assigned (unless otherwise noted-sometimes lengthy writing assignments are given several days to complete). After the due date, the assignment can be turned in for 50% until the unit of study is complete.

~Put your name, date, and hour in the upper right hand corner of all assignments. Assignments without names will be thrown out!!!

~Ink is preferred on writing assignments. Writing should be done in the neatest writing you have-print or cursive…

~Check power school weekly for assignments, updates, or announcements. I update this site weekly.

~Students are expected to copy the agenda off the board at the start of class each day. This will count in their participation grade.

**Retests~**Retests are offered-usually after school.

**Attendance**~Be on time to class everyday with your supplies.If a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to get missed work. You have as many days as you were absent to turn in work. All assignments are posted and available at the front of the class in a homework bin.

**Tardy Policy**~We have a school-wide Tardy Policy. After the 7th tardy a letter is sent home and the student is assigned a half-hour detention. After the 10th tardy the result is a letter home and an hour detention. After the 13th tardy a letter is sent home and the student will receive either an hour detention OR In-House suspension.

**DWAs~**Daily Writing Assignments are completed the first 5 minutes of class. They are collected on Friday. If a student is absent Friday, they should hand it in when they return.

~DWAs are checked as a class-there is no reason they shouldn't be turned in every week and be correctly filled out.

~What is a DWA-It is a writing prompt the students respond to or a grammar question.

**Goals~**Assuming more responsibility is a 7th grade goal. This includes responsibility for class work and for behavior. As your child's teacher, I am confident that this will be a challenging and exciting year. My goal is to offer your child the educational experiences that will better prepare him/her for the future. Students need to continue to organize their materials, information, and their thinking to effectively communicate.

**Student Responsibilities~**

Be Respectful-Respect yourself and the rights of others.

Be Responsible-Be on time, in your seat, and ready to learn!

Be Ready-Have all required material for each class. This includes an agenda book, homework assignments, your class folder, something to write with, and something to write on!

**Communication~**An agenda book has already been given to all students. Please check your child's book daily for assignments. It is very important to have open communication between parents and teachers. I encourage you to ...

\*Call me @ (586) 533-3263 direct or call the office and ask for ext. 210

\*E-mail me @ [lmullins@eds.misd.net](mailto:lmullins@eds.misd.net)

\*Read the blogs @ [www.lmullins.weebly.com](http://www.lmullins.weebly.com)

Check out my webpage at [www.schoolrack.com/mrslmullins/](http://www.schoolrack.com/mrslmullins/)

\*Write notes in the agenda book (make sure your child shows me the notes) if you have any concerns or questions.

**Supplies Recommended~**Agenda Book, Pens, Pencils, eraser, folder with line paper, colored pencils, highlighter, and a dictionary for home use.

Wish List (voluntary)~Kleenex, hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes, individually wrapped candy, line paper, colored pencils, markers, glue sticks, air freshener, or glade plug-ins.

I am looking forward to a great year with my students. I hope they enjoy reading as much as I do, and learn that writing does not have to be a chore. I truly believe that writing is life, and that they are the authors of their own story! After you have read and discussed this syllabus with your child please sign and return the bottom portion-it will count as a homework grade for them :)!

(Please cut/tear on line)

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Please sign and return to Ms. Mullins :)

Student Name Parent/Guardian Signature

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