

Seventh Grade ELA Workshop facilitated by Mr. Bailey and Ms. Del Main

What is ELA Workshop?

ELA stands for English Language Arts, and you may hear us call it English, ELA, or Workshop. The workshop model is intended to help students create and deepen habits and skills for critical thinking, analysis, research, and writing. The workshop model emphasizes the use of writing groups, book groups, and student selection of texts for reading and writing. In a lot of ways ELA Workshop isn't too much different from old fashioned English classes except the texts students use and write will be selected to better meet their needs, support their strengths, and pique their interests.

What do I need for ELA Workshop?

Students will need their iPad, an independent reading book, and preferred writing utensils.

Each student will need a notebook. In that notebook we will keep track of student reading habits, goals, and plans. We will also use the notebook to practice strategies and new skills in both reading and writing. This can be a traditional notebook, or a digital one kept on student's iPads.

Students will be allowed to check books out of the library, provided they agree to be responsible for the book and tracking their understanding of the book.

What kind of homework will I get in ELA Workshop?

In ELA students primary homework will be reading. While students will have time to read in class, reading is skill that is sharpened through repetition. Students may be reading books that correspond with the unit of study (i.e. historical fiction, non-fiction, fantasy...), or they may be simply reading a book they enjoy.

In class students will practice reading and writing strategies that usually take the form of "jots". Jots are short writing pieces that capture a reader's thinking about a text. These will be occasionally be submitted as formative assessments.

At the end of units students will have some sort of project that will count toward their summative grade. It is possible that students will have to complete portions of this at home if they are not able to get them done.

How will I be graded in ELA Workshop?

Like most seventh grade classes at Hidden River , **25 percent** of a student's grade comes from **formative assessments**. Formative assessments include class work, homework, small quizzes, and participation points. These assessments allow me to see a student's progress, and help me plan future lessons. Each assessment/assignment will have a short video that explains how to complete the assignment and how I will evaluate it.

The remaining **75 percent** of a student's grade comes from **summative assessments**. Summative assessments show me what a student has learned, and how much they've mastered a certain skill. Summative assessments include tests, projects, papers, and presentations. Once again summative assessment will have short video that explains how to complete the assignment and how we will evaluate the assignment.

What are Mr. Bailey' behavior expectations?

During the first few days of school we took class time to get to know one another and to create our class agreements. These agreements are for all members of the classroom community (Mr. B included), and are intended to create a positive and productive learning environment. Community members who break our agreements will be asked to take a break, talk to Mr. Bailey on-one-on, and if the behavior disrupts the learning of others will be asked to visit a behavior Intervention Specialist. I will in most cases also call home if a student is referred to an IS person.

Our Classroom Community Agreements:

We will work to create an interesting, calm, and enjoyable classroom for everyone.

We are responsible for supporting each other's education.

We are respectful of boundaries and ask for consent.

We recognize each other's humanity (we all matter and deserve respect).

We listen and try to understand each other's voices.

How do I get in touch with Mr. Bailey?

You can call anyone at Hidden River at 651-293-8860. Mr. Bailey can be reached by email at sean.bailey@spps.org. You can call or text Mr. Bailey at his Google Voice account at (612) 548-4944.

Unit Plan for ELA 7

This plan is tentative and could change. Please visit our schoology site for the latest plans.

Quarter	Month	Reading	Writing
1	September	Investigating Characterization	Writing Realistic Fiction: Symbolism, Syntax, and
	October		
2	November December	Research Clubs	The Art of the Argument
	January		
3	February	Historical Fiction Book Clubs	Companion Books
	March		
4	April	How to Eat a Poem	Writing Poems for Performance
	May/June		

Please provide us with a way to contact you if I have any news to share with you about your student.