

**Teachers:**

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**Contact Information:**

The best way to contact us is through ***teacher email*** with questions or concerns. We will respond at our earliest convenience.

**Students**

**Course Description:** Throughout the year, you will experience a number of different learning activities.  You will be working on oral communication, reading and discussing various texts, learning language conventions, increasing vocabulary, and improving writing, as well as developing critical thinking skills. All these elements are essential for language arts success

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| This year you can expect to read a variety of fiction and non-fiction including novels, short stories, poems, and articles. These writing pieces will model the required writing styles being explored within class. Writing assignments will include argumentative essays, informative or explanatory text, as well as creative narrative pieces. Vocabulary and grammar assignments will also be integrated into the class to continue to build your foundation of language. We are a community of learners; please also expect to work periodically in group situations and to present information, through the use of technology or orally.  **Expectations**  Students are expected to check their Schoology accounts on a daily basis in order to remain current on updates and assignments. Please understand that outside (at-home) reading is expected and is a component of our course. You will be held accountable for at-home reading by various methods. You will also be expected to complete homework week. These assignments will reinforce skills covered in class and will also provide additional practice for assessments. |

**7th Grade ELA Standards**

**Evaluation:**

In the language arts department, we use many forms of assessment to evaluate student understanding. Our grading is divided into two main categories:

* **Formative Assessments- 40%** of the total grade (includes individual and group assignments, quizzes, daily work, homework, etc.)
* **Summative Assessments- 60%** of the total grade (tests/exams, essays, and major projects)

You are encouraged to track your child’s progress on the computer using PowerSchool. See the CMS front office to pick up your child’s login information.

**Resources:**

* Schoology: Schoology is an online platform adopted by our school system that allows students to access materials and lessons created by their teachers. The school system plans to use Schoology as an online learning platform to allow students to connect with their classmates and teachers in and outside of school. On Schoology, you can expect to find a variety of resources and assignments, as well as information and activities for inclement weather days.
* Quizlet: Quizlet is a fantastic vocabulary review program! Quizlet allows multiple study options including flipping through flashcards and playing games. It can be accessed by computer (Quizlet.com), or by smartphone (You will need to download the free Quizlet app.)
* I-Ready and USA Test Prep: Practice assessment resources.
* Destiny: Our school website provides a wealth of information. You may login to Destiny through our school website and search all of our media center resources. There, you can find books, articles, and websites on a broad spectrum of topics.
* Study Sync**:** Our online and hard copy textbook that gives students access to informational and literary text and use these text to teach and support the Georgia Standards of Excellence.

**Classroom Management:**

* **Electronic Devices:**  All students will be required to put all electronic devices in their locker during the duration of the school day **at the beginning of the school day**. **\*\*If a device is visible without permission, the phone will be confiscated immediately and turned into the front office. The phone will be returned to the student at the end of the school day. Upon the first offense, the student will receive detention. The second offense will result in one day of in-school suspension.**

In order to set clear expectations, maximize instructional time, and keep all students safe, CMS has implemented the following citation policy:

* Infraction #1- Phone call home
* Infraction #2- Phone call home and Silent Lunch
* Infraction #3- Phone call home AND in-team suspension
* Infraction #4- Pre-Office referral (Phone call home and behavior discussed with student by an administrator)
* Infraction #5 – Office Referral (Parent will be contacted by an administrator)

**Communication with Parents:**

Parent/Teacher interaction is vital to your child’s success as a student. We use several tools to communicate with parents.

* Blackboard Messaging: Messaging system that allows teachers to communicate course information through the means of email or text message.
* Power School: Power School allows parents to access their children’s grades in all subject areas. If you do not have your child’s login and password, please contact the front office. Power School can be accessed through the Cartersville School System website.
* Student Agendas: Please check your child’s agenda nightly for homework assignments and upcoming tests/projects and sign daily.
* Progress Reports: CMS sends home progress reports every four weeks. Please review the report with your child, sign it, and send it back on the next school day.
* Report Cards: At the end of every quarter, your child will bring home a report card with his/her final average for each class. Please review the report with your child, sign it, and send it back on the next school day.
* Teacher Email: You can find email addresses for your child’s teachers on the Cartersville Middle School Website and at the top of the syllabus.
* Parent/Teacher Conferences: Parent/Teacher conferences may be scheduled at the teacher or parent’s request, and will take place in person, virtually, or over the phone.

**Novels:**

This year our class will be reading *Bronx Masquerade, Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief, Rosa Parks: My Story,* and *The Giver*.  These works/novels have been approved by the district and support the curriculum.  **If you wish for your student to have an alternate assignment, please contact me at tvaughan@cartersvilleschools.org.**

**Late Work Policy:**

If a student does not complete his or her assignment on time, **20% will be deducted the first semester and 30% the second semester**. If a student is absent, per school policy, he/she may have one school day for each day out sick + one additional day.

**Example: If the assignment is worth 100 points and turned in late, it will incur a 20% deduction, which means, if there are no mistakes the highest grade possible is 80 points.**

If there is any other way, we can be of assistance to you or your child, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to a great year in language arts!

**\*\*\*\*Please sign and return\*\*\*\***

My child and I have read and understand the 7th Grade ELA Syllabus and Expectations.

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Please also print child’s name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_