

Mrs. Jennifer Oehler  
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January 20, 2009

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Language Arts! My name is Mrs. Oehler and I will be your Freshman Language Arts teacher for the remaining of this year. I am so excited to work with you and to share all that Language Arts has to offer.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will follow the curriculum standards and indicators as outlined by the state. It will include a study of the writing process, writing applications, writing conventions, research, communication, acquisition of vocabulary, the reading process, nonfiction reading, and literary reading. Reading selections will include *Romeo and Juliet*, and may include titles such as *Night*, *Fahrenheit 451*, and *The Watsons Go to Birmingham*. Writing applications will include a poetry analysis paper and an informational report. Students will also write literary responses and journals or reflections. Communication applications will include an informational presentation and poetry interpretation.

### **REQUIRED SUPPLIES (Due Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>)**

Below is a list of supplies required for this course. Each student is expected to bring these supplies to class every day, unless otherwise instructed.

- Textbook (Student MUST provide a cover for the text book)
- 3-ring notebook/binder with college-ruled paper
- 5 tab dividers
- (optional – adhesive hole reinforcers and 3-ring binder folders)
- Blue and/or black pens

### **GRADING POLICY**

Grades will be calculated based on credit earned in participation, homework, in-class activities, quizzes, tests, essays, speeches, and presentations. The grading scale for this class will follow the scale outlined in the student handbook:

A+ = 97-100%	B+ = 87-89%	C+ = 77-79%	D+ = 67-69%
A = 93-96%	B = 83-86%	C = 73-76%	D = 63-66%
A- = 90-92%	B- = 80-82%	C- = 70-72%	63% or lower is a failing grade

There will not be additional extra credit assignments for individuals; however, some in-class activities may be worth extra credit. Also, be sure to check my web-page for extra credit assignments that may be posted randomly. I will not announce extra-credit opportunities in class.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS

All students are expected to write their daily assignments in their own agenda.

Homework is due at the beginning of class on the assigned day. **Grades for assignments late 1 day are worth only half credit.** There will also be mandatory *strand* assignments which are required in order to pass the class. These assignments include any major project or paper. **I will accept strand assignments for half credit up to 1 week late.** After 1 week, the assignment is not worth any points, **BUT STILL MUST BE COMPLETED IN ORDER TO PASS THE SEMESTER!** The points possible for each assignment will be included in the rubric provided when the project is assigned.

Work that is missing due to an excused absence will be accepted as long as it is turned in when it is due according to the number of missed days. **It is the student's obligation to get assignments when he/she returns from an absence.** Parents and students should also use my website frequently to keep up-to-date on assignments.

## CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND RULES

Following are a few guidelines we each must observe to ensure a safe, fun, and productive environment.

- RESPECT, COMMUNICATION, and COLLABORATION form the foundation for success. As Horton put it, "A person is a person, no matter how small."
- EVERYONE has the potential to succeed.
- NO ONE has the right to interfere with your education, or the education of others.

And finally...

- (as my father has always told me...) We must do what we HAVE to do when we have to do it, and then we can do what we WANT to do when we want to do it. That means education is our business, and that must be the priority during the school day.

Each one of these guidelines is necessary and reasonable. We need to always make sure that we are positive, open-minded, and prepared to learn something new every day!

There are four simple rules to follow in class:

Be...

1. Present
2. Prepared
3. Patient
4. Positive

## CONSEQUENCES

Students who violate these expectations will face consequences. Strike 1: verbal warning; Strike 2: detention; Strike 3: detention and contact with parents. Detentions will be assigned for Thursday afternoons from 2:25 – 2:50. Failure to attend will result in a referral to the principal. Extreme violations may result in an automatic detention or referral to the principal.

Class tardiness will be handled in the same way (see rule #1). Tardies will be recorded on a Tardy Referral Form (See attached).

## **MY WEBSITE**

I maintain a website through the Medina City Schools district site. The main purpose of this website is to communicate with parents and students regarding assignments and activities in class. Students will be encouraged daily to check my website for resources and assignments. Every lesson plan as well as handout used in class will be posted. You can access this site at: [http://www.mcsoh.org/mhs/langarts/graves/graves\\_index.html](http://www.mcsoh.org/mhs/langarts/graves/graves_index.html)

Please refer to this page whenever you have a question about an assignment in class. You can also e-mail me with any questions or concerns at [oeblerj@mcsoh.org](mailto:oeblerj@mcsoh.org)

## **504 PLAN/ IEP ACCOMMODATIONS**

Students who require accommodations in class for specific assignments, projects, or tests should contact me as soon as possible after the assignment is announced in order to be provided with the accommodations as necessary. Adjustments will be made according to the requirements outlined in the 504 PLAN or IEP.

Again, I am excited to be your teacher and I look forward to guiding each one of you through the exciting field of Language Arts! I have a wide-open door policy when it comes to communicating with parents and students concerning assignments or progress reports. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Oehler". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jennifer Oehler

**HOMEWORK DUE Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Please sign and return:

I have read and discussed the expectations outlines above with my son or daughter.

Print Parent's or Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's or Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address at which parent/ guardian can be reached: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your family have regular and reliable access to the Internet? \_\_\_\_\_

Print Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Comments? Concerns?