**7th Grade Language Arts Syllabus**

**Birney Middle School**

**Mrs. Melanie Land**

**7th Grade Team Room# C211**

**melanie.land@southfieldk12.org**

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian,

 I would like to welcome you and your students to seventh grade here at Birney K-8 School. My name is Mrs. Land and I will be the 7th grade ELA teacher on an awesome team of teachers here at Birney. This will be an awesome year for both the students as well as myself as we will establish great working relationships from the first day of school. I take the education of children very seriously and I have high expectations for all students, both academically and behaviorally! I believe that by working together, we can help your student reach his or her fullest potential now and in the future. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at school (248) 746-8800 (8:40 am-4:30 pm), by school email anytime at: melanie.land@southfieldk12.org or you may send a correspondence (note) with your student. As a parent, you naturally play an important role in your child's education. As a teacher, I want to partner with you in order to make this year a successful one for your child.

 Educationally yours,

 Mrs. M. Land

**Class Description:** During the middle-grade years, students refine their reading preferences and lay the groundwork for being lifelong readers. Seventh-grade students apply skills they have acquired in the earlier grades to read and interpret more challenging texts.

This language arts class is designed to increase their communications skills through reading, writing, speaking, and the study of the English language. The primary focus in language arts class will be mastery of different writing styles, demonstration of the rules of grammar, and the ability to express themselves orally.

This year students can expect to read a variety of fiction and non-fiction including novels, short stories, dramas, Greek mythology, poetry, and essays. These writing pieces will model the different writing styles we will be working on ourselves. Writing assignments will include timed responses, journal writing, essays, critiques, narrative, expository, technical, persuasive writing and creative pieces. Vocabulary, spelling, and grammar assignments will also be an important part of this class. We are a community of learners, please also expect to work periodically in group situations and to present information to your peers in groups or individually.

Please understand that at-home reading is expected and is a component of our class. You will be held accountable for at-home reading by various methods. We will begin discussing and reviewing our summer reading text shown below, please make sure that your student has completed and returned the summer reading packet the first week of school. It is a graded assignment and students were informed of this prior to the end of the previous school year.

**MI-Star (Parent Connect):**

You are able to see your up-to-date class average at any time on the Parent Connect Mi-Star website which can be accessed directly from the district homepage under parent links. Parents must obtain a username and password from the main office. Check this site often to see if you are missing assignments in Language Arts.

**Grading Policy:**

In our class, you will be graded informally and formally each day, using several different types of assessments.

Here is the breakdown which is taken directly from the Birney K-8 School Handbook. Grades should generally be entered into MI-Star within two weeks from the date the assignment is collected.

100-94= A 89-88= B+ 79-78= C+ 69-68= D+ 59-0= F (not passing)

 93-90= A- 87-84= B 77-74= C 67-64= D

 83-80= B- 73-70= C- 63-60= D-

\*Homework—10% \*Projects—20% \*Quizzes—15% \*Class work—30% \*Tests—25%

 Daily assignments

**Suggested Materials:**

 \*2 Subject spiral notebook \*Independent reading book \*2 packs of Notebook paper

 \*Writing Utensils (Black/blue pens or mechanical pencils with sufficient lead are required.)

**Returned Work:**

All work will be graded and returned in-class in a timely manner. Please allow a longer time frame for lengthier writing assignments. Students will have an opportunity to review their graded work, and then they will be asked to file the assignments into their class portfolios. Portfolios are used to gauge student progress throughout the year.

**Assignments:** All assignments must be completed/submitted by the given due date at or before the end of the class period unless otherwise stated. All homework is due the next day unless otherwise stated.

**Late Assignments/Missed Work:** Any assignments not received on the due date are considered late however, students are able to submit any late or missing assignments by the following Monday of the due date on Make-up Monday’s. In order to receive credit for any missed assignments, students must have the work submitted on or before Make-up Monday. It is the student’s responsibility to check with the teacher regarding any late/missed assignments and their due dates.

**Cheating/Plagiarism**

Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic grade of zero. This includes copying homework, classwork, test answers, talking during a test or quiz, allowing someone to copy your work, and trying to pass off someone else’s work as your own. In certain circumstances, arranged by me, you will be allowed to re-take suspected cheating during an alternative time to eliminate all suspicion of unethical behavior. However, the re-take alternative is an exception and at the discretion of the teacher.

**Attendance/Tardy Policy:**

Students are expected to be in attendance for school daily. Students cannot achieve growth if they are not in school on a regular basis. If students are absent it is their responsibility to check with the teacher, class website, or a classmate for missing work. Students are expected to be in class on time and prepared for learning. Students who come to class late disrupt the learning environment. Please see the Birney K-8 Student Handbook for the tardy policy.

**Classroom Rules:**

Please refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handout included in this packet.

**Discipline Policy:**

Consequences for not following the classroom Rights and Responsibilities are as follows:

 1st Offense- Awareness Reminder (Privately)

 2nd Offense- Verbal Warning

 3rd Offense- 2nd Verbal Warning (Student will fill out a behavior note)

 4th Offense- Student/Teacher Conference (a letter will be sent home to parents to be signed and returned)

 5th Offense- Behavioral Referral will be made and more than likely a detention will result from the offense

Please note that some behaviors are automatic office referrals such as: fights, threats, property damage, and habitual inappropriate behaviors.

**Website:**

I have created a class website in which I will update information frequently with assignments and documents. Please understand that this is a **COURTESY** and will be updated as time permits. Please go to: http://mrsmland.weebly.com/

**Text Alerts:**

Students and parents are encouraged to sign up for text message alerts. I will send alerts out about classroom information throughout the school year. You must register with “Remind” in order to receive these alerts. A Handout and directions will be included in this packet and the code is: Text the message @26481 to the number 81010.

Parents, please fill out the attached slip on page 4 and return it to your child’s ELA teacher by the end of the week.

Thanks very much!

**Mrs. Melanie Land**

Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

I have read the syllabus for the seventh-grade English Language Arts Class, and I understand the:

* Class grading policy
* Class homework policy
* Class attendance/tardy policy
* Assignment policy
* Discipline policy
* Plagiarism policy
* Suggested supplies/materials

Parent/Guardian signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_