

7th/8th Grade ELA Syllabus
Ms. Kotie's Class - kellis@greenwoodcharter.org
2021-2022

*****Refer to it throughout year as needed*****

Welcome to Upper Grove! I'm looking forward to a very successful school year!

Read the information below to know what to expect this year in my classroom. Come to me with any questions, concerns, or suggestions. I am here for your growth, so let's collaborate to make that happen.

ELA is a blended core class of Language Arts and Social Studies that meets every day of the week. Within this blend, students will cover three different historically relevant topics (module) and one environmentally-driven case study. Students are expected to thoroughly read, verbally discuss, and grammatically write about each of the topics as we progress through the material. Students will have both in class and out of class assignments. Each EL module has three units with multiple mid-unit skill-building assessments, an extensive writing assignment, and a performance project. All will have expert speakers; some will have field experiences also. Each assignment has a very express purpose; students need to complete each one to have the full EL experience.

Parents and students can check the Google Classroom for the learning targets and scheduled assignments. Having a discussion with your child each night is the best way to know how they are truly doing. It is also important that they have a quiet place (and time) to complete their homework. There will be homework this year.

Reading requirement: Students will be encouraged to read 20 minutes at home each night. They will be expected to keep a reading log of the books they complete.

Student Portfolio: Students will create a portfolio that will allow them to feel a pride of ownership of their work and enable them to see the personal and academic growth of the work they have completed. This portfolio will be featured at Student Led Conferences. The 8th grade students will also be preparing their portfolio for passages. They will be presenting in front of a group of parents, board members, teachers and community members. They will be sharing their growth and what they have learned at Greenwood. This portfolio is two-fold, digital and physical.

Academic Grades: Greenwood uses Standards-Based Mastery grading. This means students earn grades according to their level of mastery in each of the standards (learning targets) taught. The scoring is as follows:

- 4 Exceptional and beyond standard (Master)
- 3 Average/proficient in standard (Skilled Practitioner)
- 2 Developing standard (Amateur)
- 1 Introduced to standard (Novice)

JumpRope: The online grade book is another valuable resource. Students and parents can track a student's academic scores throughout the year. This will allow you to know, at any time, a student's overall grade, individual assignment grades. Students will access it during class every Friday and emails will be sent home when student grades go below a 2. Go to jumpro.pe and login with either your parent or student Greenwood Google account. More guidance will be shown to students and they can be easily asked to show parents.

Books and Materials: These are to be brought to class every day. They are to be used with respect and in a manner that says students understand their value and place. Any mistreatment will not be tolerated and will result in appropriate restorative practices.

Absence/Missing/Late Work: Students are responsible for turning in all work assigned in class, whether absent or not. They will be expected to turn work in on time.

- ***Absences:*** When absent, students are required check in with their teacher in order to remain current with assignments. It is the student's responsibility to obtain any missed work. As a standard, students will have one day for every day missed to make up the missing work. If a student misses a day, he/she/they have an extra day to make-up the work. *See late work policy.*
- ***Missed Tests:*** Students must make arrangements with the teacher to make up tests the DAY THEY RETURN FROM AN ABSENCE. This is the student's responsibility. If students do not make arrangements within the same week, the grade will go in and the student will not be allowed to make-up the test.
- ***Late Work:*** Late work is ONLY accepted when proper effort has been being made and negotiations make sense to all parties involved. See me for clarification of this policy if needed.

Habits of Work Grades: Academic grades are based on academic standards. Habits of work grades are based on behavioral dedication to developing character. They include: being accountable for work and actions, set intentions, committing to act and reflecting on the outcomes of personal actions and improving the quality of personal work through revision.

Classroom Norms:

1. **Be responsible:** Materials are ready & work is completed. On Time and In Class. Communicate your needs.
2. **Be engaged:** PLANT (Posture, Listen, Ask & Answer questions, Notice, Track the Speaker). Do your best work. Have a positive attitude. Follow directions the first time.
3. **Be respectful:** Use professional language. Protect the speaker. Speak kindly. Care for your environment.
4. **Be safe:** Use walking feet. Keep bodies and objects to yourself. Use furniture correctly.

Video/DVD Policy: Videos are occasionally shown to reinforce material being taught. Often, a video may be shown to show something in a different light. We will compare and contrast things that are written with things that are produced in a video. **By signing the attached sheet, you are giving permission to view all videos in our classrooms.**

Note: Bathroom breaks are dependent on teacher discretion. Students are provided the 3-minute passing period as a "break," and should utilize the restroom, get water, etc. at designated break times and NOT during class, as much as possible.

Parent/Student Syllabus Signature Sheet

Dear Parent:

We have given both you and your child a lot of information. Please read over the letter together, and sign this letter to indicate that you have read/understood each component.

Please return by Monday August 23rd

Parent Signature _____

Parent Email for Teacher Communication (please write legibly)

Student Signature _____

Student Name (Printed) _____

Comments/Questions: _____
