

7th/8th Grade ELA Syllabus
Ms. Kotie's Class - School Yr 2022-2023
kellis@greenwoodcharter.org * Classroom Code (TBA)
Refer to it throughout year as needed

Welcome to your most important class (that's debatable, of course)!

How can you be successful in my classroom?

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.

THAT'S IT!

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 multiple historically-relevant topics (module) and at least 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. Each assignment has a very express purpose; students need to complete each one to have the full EL experience and achieve the skill set being offered.

Parents and students can check the Digital 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, every night.

Reading & Writing Requirements: Students will have reading assignments daily for the current module. At Greenwood, we promote a minimum of 20 minutes per day. Students are often provided an audio option to read **ALONG** with their text. Growth in reading comes from seeing the words as well as hearing them.. In addition, writing about what is read helps the mind process and comprehend. Keeping a reading journal will also be expected.

Student Portfolio: Students create portfolios that allow them to feel the pride of ownership and achievement of their work, enabling them to see the personal and academic growth of the work they have completed. This portfolio is featured at Student-Led Conferences. 8th grade students culminate the creation of their portfolio for their capstone project, Passages. They present in front of a group of parents, board members, teachers and community members. They share their growth and what they have learned at Greenwood. Portfolios are 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: Using our online grade book, students and parents can track a student's academic scores throughout the year; it allows you to know, at any time, a student's progress towards academic mastery in each standard and a separate character grade to let you know how the student is developing outside academics. Go to jumpro.pe and login with either your parent or student Greenwood Google account. More guidance will be shown to students; 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/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 to check in with their teacher or on Google classroom 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, they have an extra day to make-up the work. *See late work policy.*
- **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.*
- **Missing Work:** If you are present, do the work. Otherwise, review absent and late work policies.

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: Refer to anchor charts in the classroom, this syllabi, the Greenwood School handbook, and pay attention to norms set by teachers. All rules will be easily connected to the beginning of this syllabi - "How to be successful in my classroom". **Dress Code/Phone Policy, etc are referenced in the Community Handbook.**

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.

COMPLETE ONLINE SIGNATURE SHEET AND RETURN BY THURSDAY AUGUST 25th
<https://forms.gle/uGVVBmdJaUrLSdZD9>