 Middle Grades English Language Arts Syllabus (2018-2019)

*This class focuses on the successful communicative development of students in agreeance with the AKS Gwinnett County Public School Standards.*

**Resources:**

StudySync, Reading Wonders, NLAE website, core texts & sub texts, class handouts, & IR books (independent reading books).

**Grade Weights for Each Semester:**

25% Projects

35% Classwork

20% Quizzes/Tests

10% Final Exam

5% Homework

5% Interims

\*Parent Portal will be updated weekly for parent/guardian convenience.\*

Students are encouraged to check their grades regularly and ask any questions that they might have about their grades. **Do not wait** until the end of the semester to do this! This class is all about practicing great communication, so when you have a question, **always speak up.**

**Portal Grades:**

If you see…

* **ABS** = Student was absent during this assignment and it needs to be made up.
* **NTI** = Student was present during this assignment and did not turn it in when it was due.
* **EXC** = Student did not complete assignment, it is excused, and the student does not need to make it up.
* **A number** = The number of points a student received out of the assignment

**Ms. Black's Office Hours:**

**Thursday, 3:30-4:15**

Students must make an appointment by emailing me ([cblack@newlifeacademyga.com](mailto:cblack@newlifeacademyga.com)).

Students can schedule if they would like to be re-taught a grammar or literary lesson; make up tests/quizzes; receive extra help with writing, speaking, or reading skills; or ask questions about their grades.

**Absences/Tardy Policy:**

If a student misses a test or quiz, they must make it up the first day that they return to school. According to the handbook, students with unexcused absences will be given a zero on any class work they have missed. Homework can still be turned in for credit. In the event that a student has an excused absence and has brought a written excuse, they can meet with me during my office hours to catch up on classwork.

Students have **5 minutes** to change in between each class. Once class has begun, teachers will lock their doors, and students will be considered tardy. Students will be allowed in the classroom after their tardy has been marked. It is the student's responsibility to make it to class on time – and **they can't learn if they're not in class**! ☺

**Retake Policy:**

According to NLAE policy, you may request to retest if **ALL** of the following are true:

1. You have attended tutoring for a re-teach of the material, **or** prepared for the retest in another teacher-approved way (test corrections, other assignments).
2. You have demonstrated effort to learn the material in class.
3. The original graded test with a parent signature and student corrections (if requested) are stapled.

**Please** **note**: You may retake each test only one time, and it must be **within 3 weeks** after the original test has been given. You may not retake district or state assessments.

**StudySync:** Students will utilize StudySync for various texts, annotations, and group collaborative analysis of texts. We will also partake in the quizzes and writing activities found on StudySync.

**Reading Wonders:** Students will refer to the Reading Wonders grammar practice texts to work on their proficiency in Standard English writing.

**Canonical Texts:** Students will read novels and short stories as core texts. As subtexts, students will have the opportunity to study song lyrics and poetry.

**Independent Reading:** Students are required to bring an IR book of their choosing to class. We will alternate silent journaling and silent reading for the first few minutes of class as a daily warm-up.

**Please sign and detach this slip of paper and return by Friday, August 10, 2018.**

**I have read and understand the syllabus for the 2018-2019 7th - 8th Grade ELA Class.**

**Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Technology Acceptable Use Guidelines**

Students are responsible for appropriate behavior while using technology just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. It is presumed that users will comply with district standards and will honor the agreement they have signed. ***Access is a privilege – not a right***. Access entails responsibility. Communications are public in nature. General school and district rules for behavior and communication apply. Technology is provided for students to access and store educationally relevant material and to conduct research. Technology access is given to students who agree to act in a responsible manner. Parent permission is required, and parents must agree to a waiver of claims and indemnification/hold harmless provision, which is set forth on the attached permission form.

New Life Academy intends to provide technology for educational activities and does not intend to create a forum for non-instructional topics at any time. During school, teachers of younger students will guide them toward appropriate materials. Students using district technology are not permitted to do the following:

* Access offensive messages or pictures
* Use obscene or defamatory language
* Harass, insult, defame or attack others
* Damage computers, alter computer systems or computer networks
* Violate copyright laws
* Use another person’s password
* Give out his/her name, address, or phone number online
* Trespass in another person’s folders, work or files
* Intentionally waste limited resources
* Employ the network for commercial purposes
* Illegally install software
* Misrepresent other users on the local network or internet
* Accessing online services other than those provided by New Life Academy of Excellence

As a user of New Life Academy of Excellence’s technology, I acknowledge I have reviewed the provisions of the attached Technology Use Agreement Form and fully understand its significance. I hereby agree to comply with the rules and will honor all relevant laws and restrictions while using technology. I understand that network administrators may review files and monitor communication, and I consent to such action.

**Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**