7TH GRADE

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**\*e-mail is the best form of communication**

LANGUAGE ARTS

**Welcome** to 7th grade Language Arts! Our focus this school year will be learning, developing and applying skills that will empower us as critical thinkers, readers, writers, speakers and listeners. In today’s demanding learning environment, it is important that you master literacy skills that will make you successful in current and future academic settings. As such, we will follow the district’s balanced literacy model.

**Balanced Approach to Literacy**

Cooper Middle School will use Cobb County’s Balanced Literacy Model to improve students’ reading, writing, and speaking skills. The Cobb County Teaching and Learning Standards in ELA provide a challenging set of expectations in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and language.  **Reading** – students will be engaging in a variety of both fiction and non-fiction text.  **Speaking & Listening** – students will be communicating about the text they read with peers and adults.  **Writing** – students will be writing from what they read and discuss.

**Required Materials (Bring EACH DAY)**

* 3 ring binder (1.5” – 2”)
* A pack of dividers at least 6 tabs
* College-ruled notebook paper
* Writing utensils (pencils, pens, highlighters etc…)
* Independent reading book
* Composition book (s)
* Agenda

Classroom resources:

Students will utilize the Springboard (College Board) textbook. Additionally, a variety of other fiction and nonfiction texts will be used in both paper and online platforms. Students will also be required to to complete a novel study. Books will be provided.

**Grading Policy**

Classwork/Writing Process……………………………………………………………………………………35%

Performance Tasks (final essays, unit tests, etc.) …………………………………….………….30%

Mini-Assessments (Touchstones, quizzes, etc.). …………………………………………………25%

Practice Assignments…………………………………………………………………………………………….10%

* Graded homework will not be accepted after the due date…will result in a zero
* A student who does not attempt to complete an assignment will receive a zero
  + Anything exceeding the student's name on the paper is considered an "attempt"
  + Student may not receive any grade less than a 50 on any “attempted” assignment
* An assignment other than homework will receive a point deduction of 10pts/day…max of 3 days; after the 3rd day a 1-week CCS referral will be made
* The highest grade a student can receive after the 3rd late day is a 70
* Alternate assignment will be provided by the teacher for assignments that cannot be completed in CCS
* Teachers will enter Synergy key symbols to acknowledge missing, late, etc…provides clarity for parents on the submission status of the assignment
* Papers that are torn, crumpled and/or wet WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
* Work submitted without the proper heading will receive a 10 point deduction.
* Students caught cheating on tests/quizzes, plagiarizing or sharing independent work assignments will receive a zero.

**Independent Reading**

Students will be expected to read independently every day for a minimum of 30 minutes. Because choice is very important, students may select their own reading material from the Cooper Learning Commons, the classroom Scholastic Library or public library system. During the beginning of the quarter, the students will set goals and reflect on their current reading practices. The teacher will conference with them regularly to suggest strategies, monitor book selection, check comprehension and assess reading stamina.

**Recurring Homework Assignments**

Students will be given a weekly vocabulary list that contains words related to an anchor text as well as Latin and Greek roots, prefixes and suffixes. Additionally, they will be assigned an “Article of the Week.” Students will critically read and annotate the article to pose questions, model their thinking and identify/decode unknown words. This assignment will assist in building background knowledge, critical thinking, reading comprehension and writing ability.

**Classroom Expectations: Accountability, Integrity and Respect (AIR)**

**Treat every person, place, thing and idea in this room with care.**

**Take responsibility for your choices and accept the consequences.**

**Come to class prepared to actively think, positively participate and respectfully collaborate.**

**Follow instructions: written and verbal.**

**Only use electronic devices in class with teacher’s permission.**

**\*Students will place the syllabus in the front of their binder for reference.**