

J. Lentz, BA.Ed ▪ 8th-Grade English Language Arts ▪ Central Junior High School ▪ jeannielentz@mooreschools.com
School: (405) 735-4560 ▪ Cell: (405) 664-3510

CLASS OVERVIEW

In English class, we will read and write every day using strategies to build a community of strong and confident writers. Students will compose more than twenty pieces of writing over the course of the school year, including paragraphs and essays, in multiple modes of writing – descriptive, narrative, informative, argumentative, and poetry. Each student will build a diverse Writing Portfolio taking each piece through the writing process. From these writings, students will showcase their best work in a Final Portfolio at the end of the school year which will be their final assessment for my class.

Aiming to engage students and instill in them the idea that they have a voice and can make a difference, I strive to create meaningful assignments over topics of interest with authentic audience and purpose. I design my curriculum around eight basic units of instruction, beginning with building a community of writers in the classroom and gradually broadening the focus, audience, and purpose as follows:

Unit 1: Classroom (Review and Building a Community of Writers)

Unit 2: School (Site and District)

Unit 3: Community (City and State)

Unit 4: Country (United States)

Unit 5: World (Our Planet)

Unit 6: Digital World (Worldwide Web)

Unit 7: Coloring the World (Poetry)

Unit 8: Final Portfolios (Final Assessment)

CLASS OBJECTIVES

My goal is to create critical consumers and producers of print and electronic media and to promote literacy by encouraging students to become thoughtful and confident readers, writers, speakers, listeners, and viewers. My focus is to not only teach students the skills they need to succeed, but to expose them to many types of writing hoping to ignite a love of reading and writing to help overcome challenges and achieve their dreams and goals.

Classroom Expectations

- Be prepared and ready to learn
- Be respectful to others
- Be safe always
- Be responsible

**Any behavior, which jeopardizes anyone's safety, will be handled accordingly with administration.*

This implies a great deal, which we will discuss in depth, from treating others the way we want to be treated to coming to class prepared every day, ready to focus and engage in learning when the bell rings.

Disciplinary Steps

1. Warning and document behavior
2. Student conference and parent contacted
3. One detention and parent contacted
4. Two detentions and parent contacted
5. Office referral

Curriculum and Video

The curriculum used in class includes, but is not limited to:

- Glencoe Literature Textbook
- Writing with Power
- StudySync

In addition to textbooks, student viewing of video clips and, occasionally, an entire movie will be used for instructional purposes only. These titles have been selected to deepen literary analysis, engage student interest, or enhance a specific lesson such as literary terms, supporting inferences with textual evidence, etc.

- *Pixar Short Films*
- *Rango*
- *Princess Bride*

**The 8th grade academic standards are on the Oklahoma State Department of Education website at <http://sde.ok.gov/sde/language-arts>.*

Attendance

Regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can be successful--both in school and in life. Students who are absent more than ten days in a semester will not earn the academic credit required to pass.

Tardies

All tardies will be accounted for on Parent Portal. Every two tardies count as one absence. The CJH policy will be followed.

Grading

Grades will be determined as a percentage of total points accumulated on class work, homework, quizzes, tests, projects, and class participation. (The number of points allotted for each assignment will vary according to difficulty and duration.) These percentages will be measured according to the district's grading scale:

A = 90 and above B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F = 59 and below

Late Work

Students will have plenty of time to complete assignments and turn them in on time. If they choose to turn in an assignment one day late, they will receive 10 points deducted from their grade. If the student chooses to turn in the assignment two or more days late, they will receive 75% credit.

Absent Make-Up Work

Students are responsible for all missed assignments due to absences. A student has as many days as he/she was absent to complete work for full credit. Otherwise, the "Late Work" policy goes into effect.

Homework

Our class theme for the school year is "If I Could Change the World," and beginning in September, students will be expected to carry out a weekly Random Act of Kindness, which they will share in class each Friday via online discussion. Occasionally, they also will be asked to select, read, and bring to class articles over current events of interest to them. Beyond this, homework will be kept to a minimum, consisting mostly of completing assignments at home when they need extra time beyond what is allotted in class.

Cheating/Plagiarism

The first time a student is caught cheating or plagiarizing, he/she will be assigned a correction assignment worth half the grade. The second time a zero will be assigned. There will not be an opportunity to replace the grade.

Extra Credit

Opportunities for extra credit will be given throughout the school year and students will be informed of these opportunities in class. Any student who goes above and beyond what is asked, he/she will earn bonus points. Extra credit will not be given individually.

Cellphones and Personal Electronic Devices

Personal use of cellphones and other personal electronic devices, such as Bluetooth earbuds and Smart Watches must be stored in the student's backpack (not on the desk, in a pocket or purse, or on the lap). Only with the teacher's permission and for educational purposes will cellphones be used in class.

Classroom Library

With parent permission, students may check-out books for their reading pleasure. A "Classroom Library Agreement" is attached and must be signed by the student and a parent or guardian before a student may check-out a book.

Chromebooks and Computer Labs

Our school district supplies Chromebooks, iPads, and Computer Labs for our students' use to enhance their educational journey. Students are responsible for following all rules and procedures pertaining to these devices. Any student who violates the school's computer usage policy or damages a device will be handled accordingly with administration including the loss of computer privileges for the semester.

Parent Portal

PLEASE, set up an account on **Parent Portal** located on the CJH school website. Through Parent Portal, you will have real-time access to your student's grades and attendance. To get set up, contact the CJH Counseling Center at **(405) 735-4568** or email HeatherSmith@mooreschools.com.

Student Handbook

The student handbook can be found at www.mooreschools.com > Parent Center > Rules and Handbooks.

Microsoft Office 365

Students may utilize Microsoft apps such as Outlook, Word, PowerPoint, and much more anywhere on any device through which they have internet access by logging in with their district email addresses and passwords. Typically, student email addresses are firstname.lastname@moorestudents.com (all lowercase with no spaces) @moorestudents.com and passwords are student ID/lunch numbers. Example: Username: **floydross@moorestudents.com** / Password: **0123456**