

Friday Harbor Middle School Course Outline 2016-2017

Course: 7th Grade English

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Core Concepts and Skills:

- Reading/Writing: the “king” of pulp writing, Stephen King says “if you don’t have time to read, you don’t have the time (or the tools) to write.” this quote not only applies to aspiring horror-fiction writers, it applies to everyone. Students will be expected to write everyday in this class, in both analog (handwriting) and digital (microsoft word/other program) formats. Along with that, we will be building strong reading skills by looking at a multitude of writing styles and platforms, and working on “reading between the lines”. That is to say, we will be attempting to analyze a written piece and how it relates to ourselves and the world we inhabit.
- Grammar, Spelling, Editing: While it’s never exciting, these skills are important to build so that students can clearly communicate with those around them. Grammar lessons will reflect the texts/literature we are working with, and bi-weekly spelling tests will help build student vocabulary.
- Research/Media Literacy: With information a google search away, it’s important that students begin to work with the proper way to research, take notes, cite sources and identify what is a reliable source and what is not.
- Test Prep: 7th grade is a testing year, and we will set aside time in class to prepare.

Major Projects/Activities/Homework

- Students will have several creative writing pieces they craft throughout the year, including a booklet of poetry and a children’s book which we will read at the elementary school. Other projects will include working on essay writing, spelling tests, grammar lessons, and group work built around the texts we read.
- Students are asked to acquire a composition notebook, spiral notebook, etc, for daily writing. This notebook is not optional, and students will turn it in once a week for a grade. The notebook will serve as a place for “writing into the class”,

which we will do each day. The notebook will also serve as a “reading log” where students record and answer questions about their independent reading book.

- Homework will come home either in a physical or digital fashion. All students will have access during school to my google classroom page, where homework will be primarily turned in. If a student has trouble accessing the internet at home, this is a conversation to have with so special accommodations can be made.

Required Resources & Reading

- Literature: an Anthology published by McDougall Littell
- Beowulf the oldest english language story we have on paper
- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian By Sherman Alexie
- Independent reading book, brought to school each day
- Composition notebook (can be left at school)

Grading

Grading is outlined in the Student Handbook. Grades will be based on several categories including homework, classwork, projects, and tests.

- Late work: work turned in 1-2 days late can receive 75% credit at most. Work turned in 3-5 days late can earn half credit (50%) at most. After one week late work will not be accepted. Students receive two late passes each semester.
- Students who turn in a major project on time and want to attempt to raise their grade will have ample opportunity to do so.