

# GRADE 7 LANGUAGE ARTS

*Team 7C – Mrs. Nagaji*

English classes in grade 7 address the National Common Core Content Standards as well as the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards in Language Arts. This includes standards for reading, writing, and oral communication (speaking and listening).

## **READING:**

Moanalua Middle uses the state approved *McDougal Littell Literature Anthology*. This textbook is filled with a variety of high quality literature and will be used to introduce and familiarize students with the reading strategies necessary to construct meaning from text. In addition, students read classroom novels and are also required to read a self-selected book independently on a **daily** basis (SURF = Sustained Uninterrupted Reading for Fun).

Students will be required to read one book per month. Most titles will be students' choice, but should meet these criteria:

1. Books should be 150+ pages long (exceptions will be made according to individual needs)
2. Books should be NEW to the student (please do not use books you have already read)
3. Books that have been made into movies are not allowed, even if the student has not seen the movie

To reinforce and provide practice in reading **nonfiction text**, as well as practicing test taking skills, students will be assigned online articles to read at a website used school-wide called **Teen Biz (Achieve 3000)**. Students are pre-assessed to determine their reading levels, and any articles assigned by their teachers will be delivered to your child at his/her readability level. A short multiple choice activity will measure their comprehension of the article, and these scores will be counted as graded assignments. Students are always welcomed to do other articles of their choice to help hone their skills.

## **WRITING:**

**6 Trait Writing** rubrics are used to develop students' writing skills in six different areas (ideas, voice, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions). In addition, **Thinking Maps** (Circle maps, Bubble maps, Double-Bubble maps, Tree maps, Flow maps, Brace maps, Multi-flow maps, Bridge maps) are integrated into lessons to make student thinking visible and to help them organize their thoughts so that they can be clearly communicated through writing. Types of writing includes personal narrative, persuasive essay, poetry, response to literature citing evidence, making personal connections, summaries, annotating text, and note-taking.

**The TEAM BLOG** will also be used as a tool to practice the conventions of writing (grammar, punctuation, spelling) as well as practice the correct usage of new vocabulary. A **Gmail** (Google email) account will be required to post on the blog, which is private (non-searchable) and monitored to insure that only team 7C students are participating. Team 7C students will also be using **Google Docs**, to work collaboratively with others. Computers are available for student use before and after school for those students who do not have a computer or internet access at home. Mrs. Ishihara's math classes are also using Google Apps, so a Gmail account is critical for students to be able to access their work and participate in class. Since a minimum age of 13 is required for a Gmail account, parents may want to open the account for your child to use.

## **ORAL COMMUNICATION:**

Students will be required to apply their knowledge of verbal and nonverbal language to communicate effectively in various situations: interpersonal, group, and public. This includes class discussions, small group interaction, and presentations. Critical listening is essential to communication and will also be addressed through these activities.

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Opportunities for performance will be provided through drama classes with the Drama Crew, role playing, skits, and video/Powerpoint slideshows. Presentations can also take the form of Author's Chair, small group sharing, and Elbow groups (writing critique groups).

## **HOMEWORK POLICY:**

Homework will be assigned on **most nights**. Students are expected to complete homework independently as assignments are reviewed in class and is time given for students to copy down the assignments in their Planner as well as ask questions. Daily homework assignments are also available on the Moanalua Middle School's website under Team 7C, Language Arts, Mrs. Nagaji: [www.monaluamiddle.org](http://www.monaluamiddle.org).

## **Late work (same as procedures listed in the Team 7C Handbook):**

Homework that is not turned in on the due date will be subject to the Team 7C Homework Policy, which requires student to complete a handwritten letter explaining why the work is late, what will be done to avoid this from occurring again, and be signed by both student and parent before the late work will be accepted for grade. The letter should be attached to the late homework.

## **GRADING POLICY:**

Grades are posted through <https://jupitergrades.com> on a regular basis. Students and parents are able to see grades on assignments and tests in English, as well as which assignments are still missing. (See attached letter for login and password).

GRADING: Based on Hawaii Content and Performance Standards Rubrics:			
A	Advanced	4 Points	+
B	Proficient	3 Points	√
C	Partially Proficient	2 Points	√-
D	Novice	1 Points	Δ
F	No Evidence	0 Points	0

Since symbols or numbers are used to score student papers (see above), students are welcomed to revise their work and re-submit them as their understanding of the concept becomes clearer. Scores that are given as letter grades may not be revised as the material has been reviewed in class with answers given and discussed.

Although most of our students make a solid transition to Middle School and the freedom that comes with it, there are a few for whom report card grades will serve as a wake-up call as they have not been turning in assignments on a regular basis. Regular visits to the JupiterGrades website will help students to become responsible for their own learning.

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## DISCIPLINE:

TRIBES Agreements serve as our behavior compass.

TRIBES AGREEMENTS	INFRACTION
Attentive Listening	Distracting others or self
Mutual Respect	Talking when someone else is speaking, laughing at others instead of with others
No Put Downs/Appreciations	Hurting our ears and hearts with words
Right to Participate/Right to Pass	Insubordination

Students will be warned once and then receive a recess detention/counseling (10 min.) for the second offense. Parents will be notified via JupiterGrades. If the detention is not paid off within two days, it will turn into a lunch detention.

## Offenses that are not tolerated (no warning given):

- Gum chewing in class
- Swearing
- Put downs (in addition to detention, a sincere accolade or appreciation is made to the victim)
- Plagiarism (results in an "F" grade for the assignment and may not be made up). Parents will be notified via JupiterGrades

## WHAT TO BRING TO CLASS:

Please send your son/daughter to school prepared with the basic supplies:

- Loose-leaf lined paper
- Pencil/eraser
- Pen
- Highlighter
- Composition book (one)
- An open mind and a positive attitude
- Flashdrive
- BRAVERY!

**Each student is expected to have a book to read at all times (free choice, see SURF requirements on page 1 of this syllabus).**

*We are looking forward to teaming with you to help your child meet success as a reader, writer, and communicator!*

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Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parents,

To better facilitate our communication with each other, please complete and **initial** each of the items below. This form should be returned to school no later than **Tuesday, August 9, 2011.**

\_\_\_\_\_ I have received and read the **Grade 7 Language Arts Syllabus**

\_\_\_\_\_ I have received and read the **JupiterGrades Login/Password Letter**

Parent Signature (to be kept on file): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email (please print neatly): \_\_\_\_\_

Best way to contact parent by phone (**please prioritize by number in box**):

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## **COMPUTER at HOME (Please select one)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Our child has access to an online computer at home

\_\_\_\_\_ Our child has access to a computer at home but no online service

\_\_\_\_\_ Our child does not have access to a computer at this time

Note: There are computers available to students on campus: in the computer lab (before school), and in the classrooms. Students who do not have access at home are welcomed to make arrangements with the teachers to work for longer periods of time after school.

Gmail Account: \_\_\_\_\_