English 7
Ida Middle School
Ms. Waldron
2020 – 2021

Ida Middle School Mission Statement:

The mission of the Ida Middle school staff is to create a safe, supportive, and conducive environment wherein all students are empowered to become lifelong learners. The intellectual, physical, social, and emotional needs of the students will be met with a variety of instructional strategies based on individual needs.

Teacher: Ms. Sharon Waldron **Location:** Ida Middle School, room 5
Telephone: (734) 269 - 9003 ext. 2005 **Email:** waldron@idaschools.org
Extra help: Before / after school and virtual meetings by appointment.

Course Expectations: The purpose of the course is to develop students' literacy skills including reading, writing, listening, speaking, and viewing. Students continue to develop their mastery of the elements characteristic of argument, informative/explanatory, and narrative writing. A thorough understanding of each type of writing will be demonstrated through student-produced texts exhibiting the characteristics of each type of writing. Students will develop specific writing skills to improve organization, grammar, and mechanics.

Course Standards: Michigan K-12 English Language Arts Standards, seventh grade.
A copy of the standards is available online at:
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/MDE_ELA_Standards_599599_7.pdf

Course Texts:

- *Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes* Prentice Hall Bronze Edition
- *Prentice Hall Writing and Grammar: Communication in Action* Bronze Level
- Independent reading materials selected by the student based on reading level
- Handouts, articles, electronic media, and other supplementary texts

Curriculum: The curriculum for this grade level/content area is no less than our established curriculum for our traditional 180 days of face-to-face instruction.

Required Materials:

1. You will need a folder for the occasional paper document.

2. You need at least one appropriate reading book for independent reading. Books for independent reading should be brought to class and taken home for nightly reading.

3. You need pencils and an eraser EVERY DAY.

4. Please consider donating one or more boxes of facial tissues and Clorox wipes (if available).

Modes of Communication: The primary methods of communication for the course will be email and Google Classroom. For this reason, it is important that parents/guardians verify their preferred email addresses are on file with the school.

Modes of Instruction: Instruction will be delivered using Google Classroom and will be a blend of in-person lessons and/or video lessons.

Student Routines/Class Structure:Knowledge of classroom routines is important. When everyone follows the routine, time spent together is used efficiently so maximum learning can occur. Please review the following classroom routine so you have an understanding of what is expected. Each class will begin the same way.

1. Please bring the following items to class every day: a folder used only for English 7 class, your Time Tracker, pencils/erasers, and an appropriate independent reading book.

2. Sharpen your pencil before the bell rings.

3. Be in your assigned seat before the bell rings. The tardy policy set forth in the Ida Middle School handbook will be enforced.

4. Write down the day's homework assignments and class announcements in your Time Tracker. This information is on the chalkboard beneath the clock.

5. Keep your Time Tracker open to the current date so it is ready to be stamped.

6. Begin reading your independent reading book. I will let you know when it is time to move from silent reading into the day's lesson.

7. Actively participate in the lesson. Pay attention to directions. Maintain a positive attitude to help promote a supportive learning environment.

8. During class time, if your attention is needed I will ring a small bell. This is your signal to stop talking and shift your attention to me. I may need to provide further directions or clarify a concept for the whole class.

9. Remain in your seat and on task until the end of class. When our class time together is finished, stay in your seat until I formally dismiss the class.

Hall Pass Policy: You are permitted to leave our classroom as long as you ask for permission. Pass use is recorded on the Hall Pass Record located near my desk. Per handbook policy, passes out of the classroom will not be permitted during the first ten minutes after class begins and during the last ten minutes of class.

You are advised to take care of any needs before coming to class to avoid unnecessary use of hall passes and to minimize classroom disruptions. Hall passes may be restricted at any time if they are abused. Please notify me of medical needs necessitating frequent use of hall passes.

Backpack Policy: According to Ida Middle School handbook policy, you are not permitted to carry backpacks or other bags to class.

Daily Independent Reading Requirement: Research indicates students who read daily are more fluent and comprehend what they read better than those who do not. To align our course with research in this area, daily independent reading is required. You should read a book for a minimum of fifteen minutes each day outside of class. The goal is to have you integrate time for reading into your daily life; my habit is to read each night before bed.

Media Center Access: Until further notice, the middle school media center will be closed. Students are encouraged to get a Monroe County Library card. This card will also permit students to borrow books to read in digital format.

Classroom Library: Until further notice, our classroom library will be closed.

Daily Writing: Please be aware that you will write daily for our class.

Mobile Computer Lab Use: We are fortunate enough to have a mobile computer lab in our classroom. Please note that computers are only used to complete academic work for our class. **Personal computer use is not permitted during class time.** Students who use classroom computers for personal use will be subject to disciplinary action. Computers will be disinfected between classes.

Google Classroom: Assignments and announcements are posted in Google Classroom.
Use the following information to log into Google Classroom:
LOGIN: firstname.lastname@student.idaschools.org
PASSWORD: Idastudentnumber

Classroom Conduct: You are part of a learning community in our classroom. You are responsible for helping to create and maintain an environment that is conducive to learning and protects the right to learn of all members of the classroom. Incivility and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. In order to maintain the learning environment, the following behavior management plan is in use in our classroom.

1. First offense: You receive a verbal warning and a reminder of the correct conduct to exhibit to help maintain a positive classroom learning environment. It is expected you will alter your conduct to contribute positively to the classroom learning environment.

2. Second offense: We will have a private discussion regarding the inappropriate behavior. We will brainstorm more positive behavior choices together. Your parents/guardians will be contacted.

3. Third offense: A write up to the disciplinarian will occur.

4. Any behavior that jeopardizes the safety or well-being of other students is grounds for immediate ejection from class. This is considered a teacher-initiated suspension. You will be sent to the office and your parents/guardians will be contacted. Further disciplinary action may be taken.

Class Dojo/Class Dojo Messaging: Classroom citizenship progress is monitored using the Class Dojo app. Class Dojo accounts can be created at https://www.classdojo.com/. Updates about the class may be sent using Class Dojo. Parents/guardians should enter their contact information into Class Dojo to receive updates.

Guest Teacher Policy: The classroom expectations remain the same when a guest teacher is present. Please follow the established classroom routine and conduct yourself in a way that reflects positively on our classroom and school. Any infractions that occur while a guest teacher is present in our classroom will be taken seriously. Your parents/guardians will be notified and disciplinary action may be taken.

Absences: A large portion of our English 7 class involves class discussion and collaboration. If it is necessary for you to miss class, please understand that it is difficult to summarize what you would have learned due to the collaborative, discussion-based format. It is easiest for you to learn the material by being present to participate. Therefore, it is best to minimize absences as much as possible.

If an absence is necessary, consult Google Classroom to view the day's assignments, handouts, and announcements. Questions about activities and assignments missed during an absence can be answered after the class moves into independent work or before/after class.

The number of days to complete make up work once you return to school equals the number of days you missed class. This means if you miss two days of English 7, you will have two days once you return to school to make up the missed work. If you request that absent work be sent to the office during an absence, please note you should have the completed absent work with you on your first day back in class.

Academic Integrity: Academic dishonesty (including all forms of cheating and/or plagiarism) will not be tolerated in our class. Consequences for an act of academic dishonesty include a private discussion and a phone call to your parents/guardians where you explain the act of academic dishonesty. You will be required to complete the academic work. Academic dishonesty will be referred to the disciplinarian.

Late Work Policy: You are expected to meet due dates for assignments. In order to be considered on time, the assignment must be turned in by the day and time listed on the assignment in Google Classroom. Assignments turned in after the due date will be evaluated according to the work policy set forth in the middle school handbook.

Grading / Grading Scale: The following grading scale will be used in English 7. The score is calculated using total points for all the assignments. Students are held accountable for their learning in the traditional way.

100	A+
99 – 90	A
89 – 80	B
79 – 70	C
69 – 60	D
59 – 50	F

Mastery Learning: You are expected to exhibit considerable effort on assignments. Sometimes, even when you put forth serious effort, a concept proves particularly tricky to master. This varies depending on the strengths and needs of individual students. If you put forth effort and are still struggling with a concept, you will be provided with additional explanation and/or instruction. You will then be asked to demonstrate mastery of the concept by correcting your mistakes and submitting the assignment again. If the assignment was originally submitted on time, it will not be considered late if you need to correct the assignment to demonstrate mastery. Tests and other assessments used to gauge student progress are not subject to corrections.

Formative and Summative Assessments: Student learning will be evaluated throughout the school year using a variety of formative and summative assessments. Formative assessments will allow me to determine where students are in terms of reaching the learning goal to adjust instruction accordingly. Summative assessments will demonstrate students' learning as they progress through the course and will include writing pieces and traditional tests/quizzes.

Home Access: Monitor your grades and assignments using Home Access. The link to log in to your account can be found on the Ida Public Schools home page. Regularly viewing your grades helps keep you on track and informed about your progress.

If an assignment is not submitted, it will be entered into the online grade book as a 0. If the assignment was completed but needs to be corrected and resubmitted, you will see it on Home Access as a 50%.

Food/Drink Policy: Eating is not permitted in our English 7 class unless a medical condition requires it. I encourage you to carry a water bottle to stay hydrated throughout the day. Drinks other than water are not permitted. **Gum is prohibited in our classroom.**

Student Support: At any point during the school year if you encounter difficulty in the course, please see me. I will help you work through any problems you have with course content.