

Blackmon Road Middle School

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7th grade English Language Arts

**HELLO AND WELCOME** to English Language Arts! This year we will study literature, grammar, and composition so you will be prepared for the next level. Now, you will find that the state, Blackmon Road Middle School, and we have many goals for you this year, and it is privilege to help you achieve those goals. However, keep in mind that the most important goal-setter of all is you!!!

**Our goal** is to offer you the opportunity to succeed academically and personally in an environment that is warm, friendly, engaging, challenging, meaningful, safe, and interactive. Our sincere hope is that you will become more of a(n): enthusiastic and insightful reader, keen analyzer of the written word, effective oral and written communicator, precise editor of your own work, critical thinker, and active participator in the learning process. (Whew!)

Reading is a critical component of success—not only in English class, but in your other classes and in the work world. As with many skills, proficiency requires practice. It is extremely important that you have an independent reading book with you every day. You may bring your own book or check one out from the media. No catalogs or anime’ books, please.

Writing well is a skill that will serve you throughout life—whether you do it with pen and paper, computer, or cell phone. We will write in a variety of modes, focusing on the six traits of good writing: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions.

**Classroom Rules and Expectations**

Enter each day with a positive attitude. Bring all your materials to class every day. (paper, pencil, pen, textbook and BRMS writing guide)

Take you seat and begin work on the day’s ‘Smart Start.’

1. Be respectful – don’t be rude and don’t be mean.
2. Do not talk when someone else is talking – teacher or classmate.
3. Respect personal space. Your desk is your space, and no one has the right to touch things that belong to you. Our desk and the front of the classroom is our space. Do not touch our things nor get up (even to throw away trash) while we are ‘on stage.’ We will show you the same respect.

**Required Materials**

* 3-ring binder (1-1/2 inch)
* 5 Dividers (Smart Starts, Literature, Grammar, Writing, and Graded Work)
* Ruled paper
* Pencils and PENS (blue or black ink only – bring to class daily) and a highlighter
* Composition book for vocabulary

**Grading** – Your grade will be determined based on:

1. Classwork and participation
2. Homework
3. Tests and quizzes
4. Book reports
5. Projects

**Homework**

* Homework is given to build skills. Homework may be checked for accuracy or completion.
* If homework is not completed on the day it is due, you will receive a 0. If the missing assignment is turned in the next day, the highest grade you can receive on the assignment is a 70 in place of the zero.

Late work must be turned in within **three** days of an excused absence.

**Independent Reading**

Under Georgia State Standards, students are required to have a 1080 Lexile level on the 8th grade GMAS.

We will go to the media center as a whole class every two weeks. Students may also go to the media center on their own with permission if they have a pass and their library card. (Student I.D.)

**Independent reading grades (book projects) will count as one test grade:** Students are to read books that are on or above their Lexile Level. There will be two book projects per 9-weeks.

**Writing Assignments**

Students will complete a variety of writing assignments, to include argumentative, expository, narrative, and persuasive essays.

**Movies and Videos**

On occasion, students will watch videos or movies that correlate to the content being learned. By signing this form, you agree to allow your student to participate in these viewings.

Parents, please check the teacher website for an outline of the daily class agenda, classwork/homework, upcoming tests and/or projects, reading deadlines, due dates, upcoming project details and deadlines, as well as other pertinent information.

This handout is to be kept in the very front of your ELA notebook for future reference.

**Student’s Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

\*\*Please return this signed syllabus by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Your notebook should be set up by this day as well.

Remind

Please subscribe to this tool in order to receive text reminders for class.

Text code to 81010

Class code: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_