

# Welcome to Accelerated 9th Grade Language Arts!



*Teacher:* Ms. Hunt

*Email:* [mhunt@rsd7.net](mailto:mhunt@rsd7.net) (best way to contact Ms. Hunt)

*Course:* Accelerated 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts (full year)

*Room:* 516

*Required Supplies:* Pens or pencils and a spiral notebook

## **Language Arts This Year**

This year we will focus on a variety of themes that connect our reading and writing over the course of a marking period. Throughout the year, we will be reading novels, short stories, informational texts, poetry, podcast transcripts and more. **Our goal as a class is to learn and strengthen your skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening.** A big reason we read and write is to learn more about what it means to be human and about experiences similar and different to our own lives. No matter what your relationship has been with Language Arts in the past, this school year is a fresh start and an opportunity to push yourself to be who you want to be!

## **Class Breakdown**

### **Close Reading:**

Close reading is a time to build technical reading skills, like identifying main ideas, themes and analyzing how authors use techniques to communicate these ideas. Students will write main idea jots and short responses about what they read, along with engaging in discourse daily.

### **Novel Study:**

Novel study is a time for us to come together as a community and read a novel together. Each marking period has specific themes connected to the novel. Every week, students will engage in purposeful note-taking and meaningful discussions that aim to deepen our understanding of the novel and interconnecting themes.

**Writing:**

Students will engage in writing on a daily basis, whether that be quick Do Nows, short responses or working on an essay. This year, we will develop writing skills and techniques across creative, informational, literary analysis and argumentative genres of writing.

**Daily Discourse:**

Daily discourse is a time for students to build academic skills, such as verbal communication and active listening. Students will synthesize information by exploring main ideas and thematic connection as the class moves through the novel and our close reading texts. Students will also learn how to prepare and engage in Socratic seminars.

**Absences and Make-up Work Policy:**

Students will be responsible for independently getting the work that was missed due to absence. Students are responsible for checking the “Absent Folder” to see what assignments they have missed. Students may follow up with Ms. Hunt with any questions regarding the work or deadlines, however it needs to be during a time that works for both the student and Ms. Hunt (which is often not during class). **Late work will not be accepted after one week from the original due date.** Failure to turn in work by the deadline will result in the work marked as a 0. Of course, in the case of an emergency or extenuating circumstances please contact Ms. Hunt so she can support you.

**Grading Breakdown:**

<b>Classwork (30%)</b>	<b>POWER Participation (10%)</b>	<b>Mastery (60%)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Main Ideas</li> <li>- Short Responses</li> <li>- Paragraph Writing</li> <li>- Notetaking</li> <li>- Language Arts Notebook Checks</li> <li>- Independent Reading</li> <li>- Stop and Jots</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do Nows</li> <li>- Engaging in Content and Peer Discourse/Discussions</li> <li>- Cellphone Away During Class</li> <li>- Annotations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exams</li> <li>- Mastery Paragraphs</li> <li>- Essays</li> <li>- Creative Writing</li> <li>- Mastery Discourse/Socratic Seminar</li> <li>- Mastery Projects</li> <li>- Mastery Presentations</li> </ul>

	<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Description</b>
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Grade Percentage		
100% - 90%	<b>A</b>	The student fully understands the content, and the course objectives have not only been mastered but exceeded, and the student has turned in all required assignments.
89% - 80%	<b>B</b>	The student understands and has mastered the content and course objectives and has turned in all or the majority of the required assignments.
79% - 70%	<b>C</b>	The student understands and has mastered most of the course content and course objectives and has turned in the majority of assignments but not all.
69% - 60%	<b>D</b>	The student has mastered minimal course content and objectives and is missing a significant number of required assignments.
59% - 0%	<b>F</b>	The student has not yet mastered the course content and objectives to pass this course and is missing a significant number of required assignments. An F does not earn credit.

### Course Schedule\*

MONTH	FOCUS
September	Elements of Fiction
October	Elements of Fiction
November	Elements of Fiction and Narrative Writing
December	Narrative Writing
January	Character Analysis
February	Character Analysis
March	Expository Writing
April	Theme Analysis
May	Theme Analysis and Expository writing
June	Poetry

\* This is subject to change due to timing and the class progression

### Class Expectations

Following classroom expectations is vital for your success and the success of others around you. When you make the choice to come to class you agree to follow these expectations. **Failing or refusing to follow these expectations will result in you being asked to leave and not receiving credit for your work that day.** You will always be welcomed back when you are ready to follow expectations.

- **Be Focused and be Present in Class-** When in this class, your focus is on Language Arts and the work that goes along with it. This also means when Ms. Hunt or a student is speaking your voice is off and your attention is on them.
- **Make Space for Everyone-** Treat everyone with respect, make room for all voices and always lead with kindness and understanding. Hate and disrespect will not be tolerated.
- **Put in the Effort-** You need to try and put forth effort in order to be successful in this class (and life). Giving up is not an option.
- **Follow Class Policies-** Food and cellphone policies must be followed.

- **Come Prepared-** You know you will need materials every day, so bring them.

**Cellphone and Earbuds Policy**

In order to eliminate distractions, cellphones and earbuds are to **be away at all times** during class\*. After **one reminder** to put your phone or earbuds away, your phone/earbuds must remain on Ms. Hunt’s desk for the remainder of the class period. **Failure to follow this will result in you being asked to leave the classroom.**

\*Sometimes during work time listening to your music is okay! Ms. Hunt will let you know when this is.

**Food Policy**

Food is not to be eaten in the classroom. If there is an extenuating situation where you didn’t eat lunch, please connect with Ms. Hunt and we will work out a plan.

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**Sign and Return This Page to Ms. Hunt for Credit!**

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I have read the Accelerated 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts syllabus and understand the expectations of the class.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class Period:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parents and Family**

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. If you feel comfortable sharing, please include the best method to contact you for class updates and updates on your student!

**Parent/Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred Method of Contact** (please circle one)

Phone Calls                      Text Messages                      Emails

**Phone Number or Email:**

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