



Ms. Panuccio – Language Arts Grade 7

Hackensack Middle School

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Welcome to Mrs. Panuccio's Grade 7 Language Arts class! This is our Class Syllabus. The Class Syllabus provides you with the following important information:

- Classroom Goals (p. 1)
- Course Materials (p. 1)
- Classroom Expectations (p. 2)
- Supply List (p. 2)
- Classroom Policies (p. 3-4)
- Grading Policy (p. 4-5)
- Important Links (p. 6)

Please keep this Class Syllabus in your binder at all times throughout this school year.

COURSE GOALS:

- Read closely to determine explicit meaning of text and make logical inferences
- Become successful independent, efficient readers with reading endurance
- Determine central ideas and themes
- Cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from a text
- Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.
- Interpret words, phrases, and expressions as they are used in a text
- Gain and refine skills in all states of the writing process (both expository and creative) through individualized writing assignments
- Increase proficiency in the areas of grammar and vocabulary
- Practice and strengthen test taking strategies and skills (PARCC)

COURSE MATERIALS:

Core Novels:

Seedfolks, The Year of Impossible Goodbyes, The Outsiders, and The Giver

Supplementary Works:

Various works of both non-fiction (newspaper and magazine articles, stories, etc.) and fiction (short stories, poems, plays, etc.) Students will also be required to read independent works.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- **Be Prompt**- Please be in your seats reading the agenda/goals/objectives on the Smartboard/whiteboard, taking out all necessary materials, copying homework into your HMS planner, and starting the “Do Now” before the bell rings.
- **Be Prepared**- Start each day with a positive attitude! Before walking into class, you should have your binder, assignments, pen/highlighter/paper and other supplies, folder, the novel we’re reading, and a mind that is ready to learn. Failure to have any of the above means you are coming to class unprepared.
- **Be an Active Participant**- Raise your hand to answer/ask a question. Look at the person who is speaking/asking a question. Take notes. Contribute appropriately to class discussions/activities.
- **Be Respectful**-
 - Treat your classmates as you would like to be treated. Remember to use your best manners (speak in a respectful tone, listen attentively, wait until the teacher/ student has finished speaking before contributing, raise your hand and wait to be called on etc.).
 - Be respectful to the adult in the room; this includes your regular classroom teacher, another teacher, and administrator, or a substitute teacher. Understand that the teacher’s job is to reach every student. *Your behavior affects everyone in the room.*
 - Keep the area around your desk clean. Care for all class materials. Please be especially gentle with our computers. Remember to take your belongings with you when you leave class.
 - Disrespectful behavior is not welcomed or tolerated in our classroom and will warrant consequences.
- **Be Productive**- Get started on your “Do Now” upon sitting down. Use the time you’re given in class to complete your assignments to the best of your ability. Copy down your homework in your planner or on an assignment sheet. Turn your work in on time. Start projects early. Always do your BEST!

If you consistently do all of the above, you will have a very productive and successful year.

Supply List:

These are supplies that will be required throughout the school year. If you run out of these supplies or lose them, please replace/replenish them as soon as possible.

- (1) 1” - 1½” three-ring binder
- Lined notebook paper
- (1) 5-tab dividers
- (1) Composition notebook
- (1) Pocket folder
- Blue and/or black pens
- Pencils (personal pencil sharpener)
- 3”x3” Post-it notes
- 1 box of tissues
- *USB Flash Drive*

CLASSROOM POLICIES

- ✓ Maintain an organized notebook
 - Your notebook will be organized into 5 sections: Do Now, Vocabulary, Readers Workshop, Writers Workshop, and Grammar
 - You are expected to keep all handouts, notes, and assignments in your notebook
 - Keep an organized record of all materials (*I will help you with this*)
- ✓ Tardiness is not acceptable.
 - If you are late without a pass, please understand that you will serve a detention.
- ✓ To use the bathroom, be sure to acquire permission first.
 - Sign out the pass completely and return promptly to class. When signing out, print your name, date, time in/out. Be sure to bring the pass back from the bathroom.
 - Only one person may use the facilities at a time.
 - Without a doctor's note, I reserve the right to deny bathroom privileges, therefore, make use of your passing time wisely.
- ✓ Disciplinary infractions will be dealt with according to the school-wide policy.
 - Detentions will be assigned, parent contact will be made, discipline referrals will be submitted to assistant principals, and students will be removed from the class if deemed necessary to maintain order.
- ✓ Cutting Class will be dealt with according to the school-wide policy.
 - All work due, completed, and assigned in class is subject to receiving a zero.
 - Students who cut **may** be given the option of completing work for partial credit after school.
- ✓ Cheating is not tolerated, whether it is for a homework assignment, test/quiz, or major assignment.
 - Results in a **"ZERO" FOR ALL INVOLVED AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION WILL BE TAKEN.**
 - Do not "lend" someone your work.
 - Do not "try to help" someone out by letting him/her use your homework as an example.
 - Do not copy someone else's work. Do not hand in somebody else's work as your own (including essays from the Internet, former students, etc.). This is plagiarism.
 - Do not ask for answers during tests/quizzes (this is cheating).

Cheating is an insult to your intelligence. Please be true to yourself, even when you think no one is watching.

ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES:

- ✓ Regular homework/classwork assignments
 - Homework will be assigned regularly. It is your responsibility to copy the assignment into your planner, and make sure you have the materials (notebook, novel, vocabulary list, etc.) to complete it. Try your best – doing an assignment incorrectly is better than not doing the assignment at all. Ask for help, we can work through things together.

- You are expected to complete all assignments. Assignments not handed in during class **when collected** will be considered late and will drop to a lower grade.
- All handwritten assignments must be neat and legible. If I cannot read it, I will not grade it, and you will receive a zero. Please use blue or black ink only. (Do not use red/brightly colored ink, highlighters, etc.). Failure to follow the guidelines will result in a warning for the first offence followed by a lesser grade for subsequent offences. Students may also be asked to redo the assignment.
- If late work becomes a chronic problem, you will be assigned a mandatory detention to make up the work.

✓ Major Assignments

- All major assignments are to be **TYPED** and **MUST BE PRINTED BEFORE CLASS BEGINS.**
- Please adhere to appropriate guidelines regarding format of typed work. *This will be outlined when given the assignment.*
 - **Font:** size 12pt, Calibri or Times New Roman
 - **Spacing:** 1.5 lines (standard 1" margins)
 - **Heading:** Student's full name, class period, date, assignment name
- Major assignments lose 10 points per day late. After 5 days, the highest grade that can be earned is a 50, so make sure it's your absolute best effort.

✓ MAKE-UP WORK

- If you have an excused absence (a note from a doctor, music lessons, etc.), you may make-up the work. It is your responsibility to get the missing assignments, homework, and notes. You should refer to our class webpage for assignments and due dates. It is your responsibility to please see me if you need a copy of a specific handout/assignment. You will have 1 day to make-up work for each day absent (i.e. If you are absent for 2 days, you will have 2 days to make-up any assignments).

✓ EXTRA HELP

- I am available for extra help most days. Please let me know in advance when you would like to attend.
- I am available most days during lunchtime for extra help – please see me the day before (for PM classes) or the morning if you would like to come for extra help during lunch because you will not be allowed out of the cafeteria without a pass.
- Unless there is a meeting, I am usually available after school for extra help. I ask that you let me know that you are planning to come after school sometime the day before or throughout the school day so that I can expect you. **Please be advised that parents must write a note stating they are aware their child is staying after school for extra help and provide information regarding how their child is getting home.**

GRADING POLICY:

Academic Integrity

Honesty in the completion of homework, tests, quizzes, and papers is expected at all times. Cheating on tests or quizzes, copying homework, and/or plagiarism will result in an "F" on the assignment and disciplinary action will be taken as per the student handbook.

ASSESSMENTS	VALUE	DESCRIPTION
Projects & Assessments	35%	<i>Tests/quizzes, formal writing assignments, performance assessments</i>
Writing	20%	<i>Activities completed to demonstrate writing process/ability (brainstorming, drafting, editing/revising, informal writing assignments, etc.)</i>
Reading	20%	<i>Activities completed to demonstrate a comprehensive range of reading strategies/abilities</i>
Participation & Readiness	15%	<i>Individual class work, group work, class discussions, "Do Nows," daily preparation for class</i>
Homework	10%	<i>At least 30 minutes of daily reading and any assigned work</i>
TOTAL	100%	Per Marking Period

This syllabus is your "Owner's Manual" for my class. Please keep it in your notebook.

Important Links:

District Resource Portal

<http://www.hpsnet.org/>

My Website

<http://www.hackensackschools.org/webpages/rpanuccio>

(Can also be accessed by going to the "District Resource Portal" and selecting "More Links" >> "Teacher Webpages." Search for "Panuccio.")

I have read and understand the guidelines and grading policies stated in the above syllabus.

Student Name _____

Parent Name (print) _____

Parent Signature _____

Parent Phone Number: (_____) _____

Email _____