

Mr. Tippetts' 7th Grade English Class

Welcome to a world of wonder through the study of Literature and Language. Expect fun, laughter, and thrills as we work, learn, critically think, and grow.

“The idea is to write it so that people hear it and it slides through the brain and goes straight to the heart.” Maya Angelo

WRITING: The only way to become better at writing is to write and keep writing! There are so many ways to write and we explore writing for information and for literature. This class can feel writing heavy, but we are going to explore different mediums of writing as well. We will practice poetry, dialogue, narrative, argumentative, and expository writing. From vignettes to essays, scribbles to formal speeches, and podcasts to presentations, we will work together and improve our techniques. Knowing your audience and purpose will be emphasized during writing instruction and practice. All these are important parts of the writing process and, despite popular belief, it can be fun.

Note to Parents/Guardians:

You may be able to reach me at school: 801-798-4052

Or at my e-mail:

scott.tippetts@nebo.edu

ATTENDANCE Attendance is vital for keeping up and understanding our mastery goals. **BE IN CLASS!** I will work with students to help them succeed in any reasonable way possible. I will be lenient with deadlines and work to help kids catch up and understand the content any way possible. The only thing I ask is that students will do their part as well.

“THE MORE YOU READ, THE BETTER YOU THINK.”

READING: Research continually proves that consistent reading provides great academic, mental, and health benefits. You will be accountable for both Reading for Information (RI) and Reading for Literature (RL) assignments and activities. Both guided reading in class and assigned reading for homework will be valuable preparation for discussions, writing, and thinking. While this is not a reading heavy class, you will be taking a reading class that will focus on these standards closely. However, reading is still vital to good writing.

For class novels, stay current with the reading assignments. Do not read ahead and do not fall behind. (seriously, keep it spoiler free). This rule is important for your understanding and for our class discussions. Some of our class novels may include: **Short Stories from our Class Literature Book, *Touching Spirit Bear*, *Nothing but the Truth*, *A Night Divided* and a variety of informational texts. We will also be using clips from some movies and videos to compare and contrast, evaluate, and summarize. If a class novel is allowed to be taken home, you will be responsible to bring it back in good condition; if the novel is lost or damaged, the student will be fined for the book's replacement. (Responsibilities, am I right?)

LMS (Learning Management System): The system I will use most often will be Canvas. This is a great system since it will be used by all the teachers in the school so the students will practically be experts by the end of the year!

GRAMMAR. The mechanics of language help make sense of any form of communication (yes, even texting). It is important to learn and practice editing skills. The more we understand our parts of speech, the more we can manipulate it into beauty and power. I have also learned that in order to break the rules of grammar, which many writers do, you need to know the rules first.

SPEECH AND LISTENING: Class participation and group work are an important part of class. **BE INVOLVED. BE HEARD. LISTEN. RESPECT.** Don't be alarmed, but some projects will be oral presentations. Our class is a safe, positive, environment built for success. You will be supported, and it will be over before you know it.

Getting Help I am here as your guide through this Language Arts adventure. **I am here to help.** You can see me before school, after school, or during E-Time; it does help if you talk to me before so I know you're coming in. Computer labs are also available after school if you have limited access to a home computer. You can be successful as long as you put the work in, but that doesn't mean you have to do it alone.

All English classes at DFM will be assessed for proficiency on our **CORE standards**. Projects, tests, papers, and quizzes will be used for mastery scores. The 7th grading scale is weighted as follows:

50% Assignments
50% Mastery Scores

If you score below 80% on any test or major assignment (Mastery), you will be expected to fix, redo, or retake the assignment or test within one week of the original due date. Depending on the nature of the assignment, you will be required to either complete a review sheet or work with me to see what needs should be addressed before the redo will be given. Formative and summative assessments are included in the mastery scores as they show the students' progress in relation to the learning objectives. These assessments can be retaken.

Preparedness Turn in assignments on time! Absent work must be made up within two days of returning from the absence or it will be marked as late. Special circumstances will be dealt with individually. Some make-up work may require that you come in for E-time for some extra help on your assignments. Some assignments expire or simply cannot be made up. Extra credit cannot be done to replace missing work; extra credit is given when work is exceptional. **WORK TO SUCCEED!**

Participation points come from class work and discussion. Participation means more than raising your hand and answering questions. It's about being **ENGAGED** in our work. It's about being **ON TASK** and **INVOLVED**.

Materials Before the bell rings, you should have the following supplies at your desk **EVERYDAY** before the bell rings:

- Working Pen or Pencil
- Notebook
- Personal Reading Book
- Class Novel (when applicable)
- Any Homework Due

The notebook will be used for notes and for journal writing. I have personal reading books that can be checked out to students who are responsible to return or replace missing or damaged books.

We are fortunate to have a set of Chromebooks in our classroom. Procedures will be taught in handling this equipment. Those who fail to abide by Diamond Fork's Chromebook policies will lose the privilege of using them and will be held accountable for any damages.

Cheating and Plagiarism Cheating in any form is unacceptable. If a student is caught cheating or plagiarizing (i.e. using another person's words without giving them credit from a friend, internet, or other source), they will receive a zero for the assignment and will have their citizenship dropped to a "U". The student will redo the assignment for 50% credit. We will learn and focus on proper ways to quote and give correct citations to avoid plagiarism.

Grade scale:

- A 90-100%
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- U >69%

Important Disclaimer I have not read all the books in my library since they were all donated to me. Students should consult guardians and use personal discretion in choosing books to read. If you encounter a book with questionable content, please inform me so I can keep the shelves updated with the best books for the students.

"WEAKNESS OF ATTITUDE BECOMES WEAKNESS OF CHARACTER."-Albert Einstein

Citizenship Your citizenship grade will be determined on a 100 point scale based on our school values of: **Respect, Courage, Perseverance, Integrity, and Compassion**. While you may lose points for not having your supplies at your desk when the bell rings, being disrespectful, misuse of cell phones, and breaking class and school rules, you will earn points for outstanding behavior. Misuse of Chromebooks will result in a loss of privilege to use our Chromebooks and a drop in citizenship points.

Cell phones are a distraction and should be left in lockers. If a student has a cell phone in class, it must be out of sight and out of hands. It must also be on sleep/airplane mode. Students should not ever touch a phone that is not theirs. Misused cell phones will be confiscated and turned into the office with a drop in citizenship points.

Poor behavior for a substitute automatically drops citizenship to a "U".

Citizenship Scale:
80-100 S, 40-79 N, 0-39 U

**If you'd like to be informed on the books and stories we read, I encourage you to look at sites like Common Sense Media for input on these literary works.

*For more information on policies and procedures for COVID-19, refer to the district link provided:

<https://www.nebo.edu/coronavirus>

****Attendance is vital for keeping up and understanding our mastery goals. BE IN CLASS! Each term I give 2 hall passes to be used during that term. They are to be used for emergencies.**

They are NOT to be used to go to a locker or to use a cell phone. When I have a substitute, it will cost 2 hall passes to leave class.

Learning happens in our classroom and I love giving credit for people being there. Therefore, 5 extra-credit points are given for each hall pass turned in at the end of the term. Students who have more than 5 absences during each term will not receive extra credit from hall passes. The point is to encourage and give credit for students being in class.

DIAMOND FORK VALUES CITIZENSHIP	
RESPECT	I take care of my property, school property, and the property of others. I treat students, staff, teachers, and substitutes with dignity. I follow classroom and school rules. I come prepared for class. 
COMPASSION	I treat others with kindness and empathy at all times, including on social media. I watch for others who may need a friend, especially members of my team.
COURAGE	I stand up for myself and others. I tackle tasks that are difficult. I risk making mistakes. I learn from my mistakes and try again.
CURIOSITY	I ask quality questions. I demonstrate a desire to know and learn. I share my viewpoint and listen to the viewpoint of others.
INTEGRITY	I demonstrate honesty in my actions and words. I work to be my best self in every situation. I do my own work without copying others or allowing others to copy from me.
PERSEVERANCE	I engage and participate during class. I complete my assignments on time. I re-do assignments to strive for mastery of concepts.

