***Welcome to English/Language Arts***

***Courage: Connections and Reflections***

***I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.***

***~ Nelson Mandela***

**This will be an exciting and very challenging year! I am so glad to have you in my class. This syllabus details important class information and expectations.  If you have any further questions, please don’t hesitate to ask.**

***Contact Information***

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***Conference Period:***

 Monday, Tuesday, and Friday - 10:25-11:15 a.m.

 Wednesday – 10:05-11:35 a.m.

***Course Content Info:***

This year’s language arts unit is *Courage: Connections and Reflections* and is designed to meet the specific needs of high ability students. The unit explores the key concept of *courage and the idea of a personal journey in developing and exhibiting courage* through studying literature, history and art forms. Our goal will be for students to make connections between themselves and other disciplines like history and current events.

In class we will read and discuss short pieces of literature, including poems, short stories, and essays. As we read the literature, we will respond to it and think critically about it by analyzing ideas, vocabulary and structure, looking for insight into the concept of courage.

Several activities in the unit will involve some work outside of class. These include;

* Some longer reading selections from *Ender’s Game*, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, as well as the opportunity to read one of the choice novel’s *I Am Malala*, *All The Light We Cannot See* or *The Fault In Our Stars*
* Individual and small group independent investigations about selected issues
* Research projects on specific projects chosen for a written and/or oral presentation

Developing strong writing skills will also be a key component of the unit. A writing portfolio will be kept to document progress in writing.

***Grading Procedures***

The student will be evaluated through formative and summative assignments and activities. **Formative assessments (a.k.a. Daily)** include quizzes, daily work, homework, labs or rough drafts, will make up 60% of the grade.  Formative assessment helps students by giving them opportunities to make mistakes and learn from them along with immediate and positive feedback.   **Summative assessments (a.k.a. Major)** are given when students have had plenty of opportunities to master the concepts and it is time to demonstrate their level of mastery.  Tests, projects and final papers fall into this category, which will make up 40% of their overall grade.  **Re-takes:**  Students scoring below a 70% on major grades will have the opportunity to make corrections, attend tutorials if needed, and re-take the assignment.  **Students must request** tutorials, complete corrections, and schedule a re-take within a week of receiving the graded assignment.  The maximum possible score on a re-take is 75%.

***Homework Policy***

Homework assignments will provide opportunities for practice and act as an extension of class work. When appropriate, homework grades will be collected and entered into the grade book. Homework expectations and due dates will be clearly communicated, but it is the responsibility of the student to get the work completed and turned in on time.

***Late work***

Partial or missing daily assignments will have 20 points deducted the first day and 10 points deducted each day after that. For major grade, 10 points will be deducted a day for up to five days. Students will lose credit for the assignment after three days for daily grade and five days for major grades; however, the assignment is still expected to be completed.

***Character Policy***

Students will be encouraged and guided in making positive choices at all times. Academic dishonesty will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Possible consequences for cheating may include, but are not limited to, requiring an alternate assignment to be completed, parent notification, reflection activity, and office referral.

***Absences***

If a student is absent, he/she will be given the opportunity to make up the work. However, the student is responsible for getting missed assignments and clarification from the teacher. Students will have one day per number of days absent plus one extra day in order to complete make-up work. For example, if a student is absent on a Monday and Tuesday, he/she will have until Friday to complete the work.

***Electronic Devices***

Per the student handbook, a student may use a personal telecommunications device on school grounds during

non-instructional times. All personal telecommunications devices shall be set so that incoming calls, text messages, and the like do not emit audible sound. A student may use a telecommunications device to the extent authorized by a classroom teacher or administrator for instructional purposes. Telecommunications devices shall not be used to take pictures or video at any time during the school day or on school grounds, unless authorized. A staff member who discovers a student in

possession of a personal telecommunications device in violation of District policy shall confiscate the device and turn it over to a campus administrator by the end of the school day.

Students who abuse “listening” privileges will have their devices confiscated and sold on eBay.

***Snacks***

Since hungry people don’t learn well, students are allowed to bring a HEALTHY snack, such as crackers, fruit, vegetables, etc., to eat in class. Students are only allowed to drink water in the classrooms.

***Supplies Needed:***

* 1 2” 3-ring binder
* 5-pack binder dividers
* Pens or pencils to write with

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## STUDENT’S NAME (Please PRINT):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## I have read and understand the classroom policies outlined in this syllabus. I understand that I may meet with my teacher as needed to clarify any classroom, academic, or behavioral concerns.

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

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