

## Course Syllabus

Course Title: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts

Course Date: 2010-2011

Course Location: Rensselaer Central Middle School 122-B

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Course Description: Students discuss, list, and graphically organize writing ideas. They write clear, coherent, and focused essays. Students progress through the stages of the writing process and proofread, edit, and revise writing. At grade 7 students continue to write narrative (story), expository (informational), persuasive, and descriptive texts of at least 500-700 words. Students are introduced to biographical and autobiographical narratives and to writing summaries of grade-level-appropriate reading materials. The writing demonstrates a command of Standard English and the research, organizational, and drafting strategies which incorporate the writing process. Writing demonstrates an awareness of the audience and purpose for writing.

**Learning Outcomes:** Grade 7 students cover the following standards:

### Standard 4: Writing Process

- 7.4.1 Discuss ideas for writing, keep a list or notebook of ideas, and use graphic organizers to plan writing.
- 7.4.2 Create an organizational structure that balances all aspects of the composition and uses effective transitions between sentences to unify important ideas.
- 7.4.3 Support statements and claims with anecdotes, descriptions, facts and statistics, and specific examples.
- 7.4.4 Use strategies of note-taking, outlining and summarizing to use during draft writing.
- 7.4.5 Identify topics; ask and evaluate questions; and develop ideas leading to inquiry, investigation, and research.
- 7.4.6 Give credit for both quoted and paraphrased information in a works cited page
- 7.4.7 Use a computer to create documents
- 7.4.8 Review, evaluate, and revise writing for meaning and clarity.

- 7.4.9 Edit and proofread one's own writing, as well as that of others, using an editing checklist or set of rules, with specific examples of corrections of frequent errors.
- 7.4.10 Revise writing to improve organization and word choice after checking the logic of the ideas and the precision of the vocabulary.

#### Standard 5: Writing Applications

- 7.5.1 Write biographical or autobiographical narratives
- 7.5.2 Write responses to literature
- 7.5.3 Write research reports
- 7.5.4 Write persuasive compositions
- 7.5.5 Write summaries of reading materials
- 7.5.6 Use varied word choices to make writing interesting and more precise
- 7.5.7 Write for different purposes and to a specific audience or person, adjusting style and tone as necessary.

#### Standard 6: English Language Conventions

- 7.6.1 Properly place modifiers and use the active voice
- 7.6.2 Identify and use infinitives and participles
- 7.6.3 Make clear reference between pronouns and antecedents
- 7.6.4 Identify all parts of speech and types and structures of sentences.
- 7.6.5 Demonstrate appropriate English usage
- 7.6.6 Identify and correctly use hyphens, dashes, brackets, and semicolons
- 7.6.7 Demonstrate the correct use of quotation marks and the use of commas with subordinate clauses
- 7.6.8 Use correct capitalization
- 7.6.9 Spell correctly derivatives by applying the spellings of bases and affixes

#### **Instructional Methods**

This course is taught using a variety of instructional methods including lecture, class discussions, small group work, and project creation.

#### **Textbook & Materials**

Textbook Title: Shurley English Curriculum for Grammar, Writing and Oral Language  
Publisher: Shurley Instructional materials, Inc.  
Materials: Lessons That Change Writers, Nancie Atwell  
Publisher: Heinemann

**Grades**

Work is graded on a point system. All grades added together will count as one grade for the grading period. The total possible points divide points earned.

**Papers**

Students will pre-write, draft, share, edit, and present papers. We will explore a number of writing genre including, memoir, poetry, book reviews, letter writing, research and fiction. Final drafts are required to be word processed.

**Late Work**

Work that is one day late earns up to 90% credit, two days late up to 80% and three days late up to 70%. Work more than three days late require referrals to After Zone.