**English Language Arts 3**

Mr. Nathan Williamson, Teacher

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**Course Description:**Eighth grade language arts students will be immersed in reading and writing activities this year. Students will read selections from a variety of genres including: novels, short stories, plays, biographies, poetry, and non-fiction informational texts. They will then synthesize, analyze, and respond to what they read through classroom discussions, collaborative activities, quizzes, and various writing assignments including argumentative, informative, and narrative writing.

This language arts course focuses on the English Language Arts Florida B.E.S.T. Standards, and those stress the importance of students being able to read, understand, summarize, and compare all types of text as well as respond to the piece effectively. We will spend time building oral communication skills and presentation skills in order to make students confident presenters of information. Students will be guided through each step of the writing process. Our goal will be to produce thoughtful, polished, finished products that reflect the writing and grammar skills they are gaining. Reading and writing are integrated and will be taught in tandem.

**Bell Works:**  The students will come into class each day and complete a Bell Work.  All Bell Works, after week 1, are language arts skills practice.  The Bell Works count as a classwork grade.

**Vocabulary:** Vocabulary is ongoing throughout the school year.  We will finish three units each nine weeks. Students have two nights to get the vocabulary homework done. Please talk to me on an individual basis if there is an accommodation in place and extra time is needed.

**Classroom Expectations:**I value the rights of all of my students and insist on a positive, respectful learning environment for every student. Students are responsible for their actions and materials.

The weekly agenda will be posted each Monday. Students are strongly encouraged to write it, preferably in a student planner.

**Required Materials**: It is imperative that students come to class prepared to learn each day. Students should have the following every day: charged LCS issued Chromebook\*, wired headphones/earbuds (NO AIRPODS), novel for independent reading, language arts folder, pens, pencils, highlighter, and notebook paper/notebook. (\*once issued)

**Grading and Evaluation:**

Classwork/Homework 30%

Assessments/Quizzes & Projects 70%

**Grading Scale:**

A = 100% - 90%

B = 89% – 80%

C = 79% – 70%

D = 69% - 60%

F = 59% - Below

**Make-up/Late Work Policy:**  Make-up work is due within two days after an absence.  Late classwork and homework, not due to attendance, will be worth half credit.  Projects will be deducted 25% each day.  Tests may be retaken if the grade is unsatisfactory (D or F).  However, the new grade will not be higher than 70%.  THIS WILL BE ENFORCED.  Make-ups must be done before school within a week.  \**For long-term assignments, being absent on the day(s) before the assignment is due DOES NOT extend your due date.  It is still due on the date originally assigned.  (Example:  If a project is assigned on September 7th and due on September 17th, and you are absent on September 16th, your project is still due on September 17th—barring extenuating circumstance.; If Vocabulary is issued on October 3rd, your being absent on the 14th does not excuse you from the quiz on the 15th.)*

**Plagiarism/ Cheating Policy:** All work that you turn in must be your own. Please do not give information to another student to copy or use another student’s work to complete your own assignments. There may be times that I assign a group project and information will be shared, but I make those exceptions clear. Plagiarism will result in a zero for all parties involved, as well as parent notification. Multiple occurrences will result in disciplinary action. This includes copying information from the internet and submitting as your own work. Cheating of any sort will result in a zero and parent notification. Using ChatGPT or any other form of AI in the classroom will not be tolerated.

**Digital Expectations:** Check your school email daily. Check the Weekly Module in Canvas daily to be aware of ALL assignments (classwork, homework, assessments, & projects). Bring Chromebooks already charged each day.

**Communication:**  When emailing be sure to send from your student Office 365 account in ClassLink (otherwise it likely goes to spam). I ONLY check my Office 365 email. I do not see messages or emails in Canvas. I prefer not to use Focus as a means of communication. You can message me through Remind as well.

**Canvas:**  Canvas is a prominent source for this class.  Most assignments will be available on Canvas.

**Remind:** I use Remind periodically throughout the year. Please join Remind as soon as possible.

**Curriculum:**  Florida StudySync (this is our county adopted textbook), CommonLit, Vocabulary Workshop (level C), and pre-approved novels.

**Cell Phones:**  Cell phones are **prohibited** at all times starting at 8:45 A.M.  Students who violate this rule will have their phones taken and sent to the front office for parents to pick up.  This is a school-wide policy.

I look forward to a GREAT year!

*Feel free to email me at*williamsonn@leonschools.net