

# **Cortney JHS**

## **English 7**

### **Course Expectations**

Mr. Johnston

#### **Course Scope**

In this year-long course in English, students will learn to increase their writing skills in descriptive, expository, and narrative compositions. Students will study the Writing Traits, the Writing Process, and will also sharpen Vocabulary, Mechanics, and Grammar.

#### **Course Outline**

##### **Communication and Study Skills:**

Students will learn active listening skills, effective study habits, public speaking, and test-taking strategies.

##### **Grammar:**

Students will review the parts of speech, and use them in writing. Students will learn subject/verb agreement, pronoun/antecedent agreement, simple and compound sentences, and subordinating and coordinating conjunctions.

##### **Usage and Mechanics:**

Students will review basic punctuation, including end of sentence punctuation, quotation marks, apostrophes, commas, semi-colons, and colons. Students will also learn verb tenses, capitalization, and how to write titles.

##### **Writing:**

Students will learn the Analytic Traits, and the Writing Process. They will learn the narrative, descriptive, persuasive, and expository compositions. Students will also be able to write topic sentences with appropriate supporting sentences.

##### **Vocabulary:**

Students will learn high-frequency spelling rules, multiple-meaning words, homophones, homonyms, and homographs. Students will learn to use context clues and knowledge of prefixes and suffixes to determine word meaning.

**\*\*\*Students are expected to use correct spelling in all writing assignments.\*\*\***

#### **Grading Policy**

##### **Grading Scale:**

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

60-69 = D

0-59 = F

##### **Grading Procedures for Nine-Week Grade:**

- a) Quarter grades will be weighted in the following way:  
Class work, 60%; Homework, 20%; Quizzes and Tests, 20%.
- b) According to CCSD Policy, a student will receive a **failing grade for the Semester after more than ten unexcused absences**. Up to that point, attendance does not directly affect a student's grade. However, REGULAR ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT, as it affects the student's understanding of the material covered.

- c) Participation will be graded as part of class work. Learning is not considered a spectator sport.
- d) Homework will be the continuation of work done in class, and is expected to be completed **on time**.
- e) All written work will reflect the standard English conventions of Spelling, Grammar, and Neatness. Work that is illegible will not be graded.

**Semester Grades:**

Semester grades are determined by averaging nine-week grades and the Semester Exam. Each quarter is worth 40% of the Semester Grade, while the Semester Exam is worth 20%.

**Make-up Work:**

Students have three days immediately following an absence to make-up assignments. Make-up work that is turned in on or before that time will be given full credit.

**Classroom Behavior**

**Discipline Plan:**

This class uses a Progressive Discipline Plan.

At the first disruption, the student will receive a Verbal Warning.

At the second disruption, the student will receive an After-School Detention.

At the third disruption, the parent will be notified.

At the fourth disruption, the student will be referred to the Dean.

*\*\*\*Any major infraction, such as fighting, extreme profanity, or gross insubordination, will result in the student being sent immediately to the Dean's Office for discipline.*

**Daily Materials:**

Students will need to bring to class:

Three-ring binder *with paper*

Spiral Notebook for Journal

Pencils

Black ink or blue ink pen

Red pen for grading

It is also greatly appreciated if each student would bring in a box of tissues.

**Tardy Policy:**

A student is considered Tardy if he/she is not in the classroom when the bell rings.

At the first tardy, the student will receive a warning.

At the second tardy, the student will receive an After-School Detention.

At the third tardy, a letter will be sent to the student's home.

At the fourth tardy, the student will receive a U in Citizenship.

At the fifth tardy, the student will be referred to the Dean's Office for Disregard of School Rules.

**Corridor Passes:**

A hall pass is given to a student in the event the student needs to get to a destination on school grounds after the bell has rung. Students are not to wander the halls when given a pass. All passes must be signed by the teacher to be valid.

**Classroom Behavior:**

Students are expected to remain on task during class time. If all class work is completed, students are to read silently until the entire class is finished.

**Dress Code:**

Cortney Junior High School follows the Standard Student Attire Dress Code. Students in violation of Dress Code will be sent to the Dean's Office.

**Talking:**

There will NO TALKING after the bell rings. Students are to raise their hand and wait until called on to speak during class. Talking in class is considered a disruption, and will result in demerits, and possible further disciplinary action.

**Beginning and Ending of Class:**

Students are expected to be in their seats and working on the Bellwork when the bell rings. At the end of class, students will remain in their seats until dismissed by the teacher.

**School Property:**

Students are expected to take care of the school property they use. This includes textbooks, dictionaries, desks, and other school supplies. Any student found vandalizing or damaging school property will be disciplined.

Sincerely,

Mr. Johnston  
emjohnston@interact.ccsd.net

This Course Expectation packet is to be read and signed by both Student and Parent/Guardian, and returned to class. I have read the information and understand my responsibilities in this class. I am aware of the behavior that is expected in Mr. Johnston's class. I will keep this expectation in my binder so that it will be available for review when requested by my parent/guardian.

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Student Signature

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Parent/Guardian Signature