

Francis H. Cortney Junior High School

2008-2009 Course Expectations

7th Grade Reading and English

Ms. Savoy and Ms. Schleifer Room 200

shannons@interact.ccsd.net and jlsavoy@interact.ccsd.net

799-2400

Course Scope and Goals: This one year course is a combination Reading and English class. We will be meeting for two class periods each day. This class will expand students' writing abilities and strengthen critical thinking skills, as well as greatly improve reading competency. Our curriculum, Read 180, is a revolutionary program that uses innovative technology as well as individual and group instruction. Students will have access to computers, audio books, paperbacks, and many other types of literature. This course will provide lots of individualized instruction and immediate feedback to students on their progress.

Reading Goals:

Deliver individualized, adjusted reading instruction to improve students' reading skills.

Increase achievement by practicing the application of a variety of strategies in different contexts and with different types of texts.

Motivate and support students as they become lifelong readers and learners.

English Goals:

Develop critical thinking skills.

Learn and practice the writing process.

Develop and hone speaking and listening skills.

Practice writing for a variety of purposes and audiences.

Improve Standard English in your own writing.

Use various types of sentences in order to alter style in your writing.

Expand vocabulary, increase spelling proficiency, and reinforce literary terminology.

Expand your knowledge of literary genres.

Respond to literature in writing and speech.

Develop an understanding of good character and ethics through exposure to a wide variety of written and oral communications.

Develop an awareness and appreciation of other cultures.

Respond respectfully to the ideas of others.

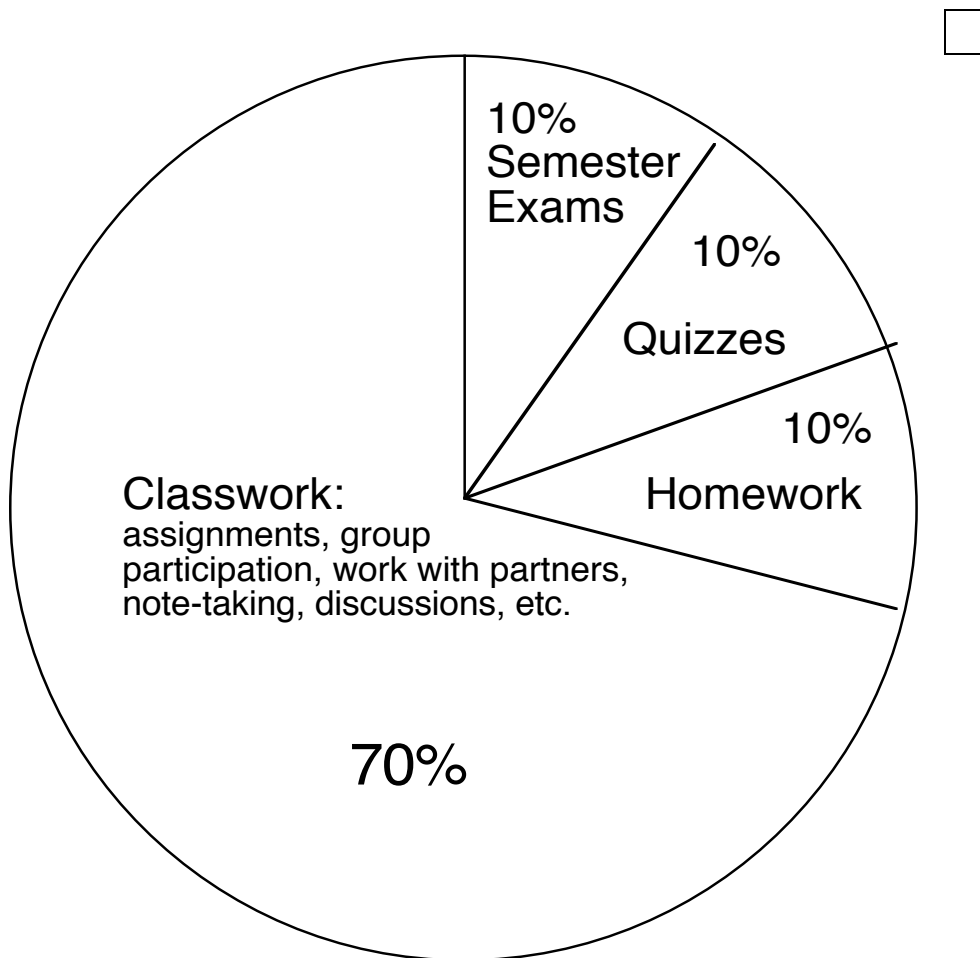
Textbook or Alternative Materials:

Required Text: Students will be assigned an *rbook* and a variety of paperbacks and audio books. These materials should remain in the classroom and will be provided at no charge, however, if they are lost or damaged, the student responsible must pay the replacement cost. Replacement costs range from \$3 to \$25 for individual books. Damaged book costs will be estimated on a case by case basis.

Additional Materials: All students are required to bring two pencils, one ball point pen, and one 3-ring binder (may be used for other classes as well) with plenty of loose leaf paper to class daily. You must have silent reading material for each class period. Sometimes students will need to bring a book on their own (from a library or personal collection). Teachers will give explicit directions in class.

Course Lessons and Time Schedule: This course follows the Clark County School District curriculum for 7th Grade Reading and English. Benchmarks for this course are laid out in the syllabi and will be followed.

Evaluation: This is a one year course. Students will receive two final grades, one for each semester. The following chart depicts the breakdown for semester grades.



- 90-100% A
- 80-89% B
- 70-79% C
- 60-69% D
- 0-59% F

Participation: Daily participation in class is required. Participation will be reflected in academic grades as well as citizenship. Students will be graded on their ability to work in groups, accuracy and quality of work, and turning work in on time.

Attendance: Regular attendance is expected. Poor attendance may cause students to fall behind in class work and be unprepared for tests and quizzes. Excessive absences not only prevent students from receiving instruction, but also may lead to denial of credit. Any student with more than 10 unapproved absences may automatically receive a failing grade.

Make – Up Work: You will have **3 days**, from the day of your return from an approved absence, to turn in any missed assignments or take any quizzes or tests you miss. Any grades you make up within this 3 day period will be graded without penalty.

Citizenship: Since every member of the class plays an important role in the success of the class, students will be required to participate POSITIVELY in class. Classroom rules will be distributed to each of you and posted in the classroom. The basic guideline is RESPECT: respect for yourself, for others, and for the opportunity to learn. You are expected to know the rules and comply. Any disrespect or infractions of school rules or classroom rules will require immediate action from the teacher(s). Each infraction will lower the student's citizenship grade.

Infraction 1: Student receives warning from the teacher.

Infraction 2: Student may either receive a second warning or a teacher detention, depending on the infraction. A note or phone call home may also be necessary.

Infraction 3: Student may be sent to the counselor and the teacher will contact the student's parents. A conference may be requested.

Infraction 4: Student will be sent to the Dean's Office for administrative action.

Citizenship Grades:

- O** Outstanding
- S** Satisfactory
- N** Needs Improvement
- U** Unsatisfactory

Student Assistance: Any student seeking extra help should set up an appointment with the teacher at least one day in advance. We are also available to meet with students before or after school on a regular basis. We only ask that students be sensitive to the teachers' existing schedule and arrive on time to any meeting arranged.

Grade Reports and Parent Communication: On a regular basis, students will be notified of their progress to date. Grades will be posted online at least

every week. Any dispute of grades must be taken to the teacher **before or after class time**. Grades will be communicated to parents every four weeks on Grade Day, quarter reports, unsatisfactory reports, and semester report cards. Parents and students may request weekly progress reports through the counseling office. **I encourage you to check ParentLink as often as you like. Each student has a username and password which allows access to up-to-date information such as grades, attendance, and teacher contact.** You may even see the grades, missing assignments, and any notes from the teacher from that very day. **You can access ParentLink by going online to www.parentlink.ccsd.net.** Any student who has forgotten their login information may see us outside of class time to get it.

We are excited about working with each individual and helping you find reading material that you enjoy and that makes you think! We are eager to help you become enthusiastic and skilled readers, writers, listeners, and speakers. This will be an exciting year.

Parents –

Thank you, in advance, for your care and support.

Sincerely,

Shannon Schleifer

Jennifer Savoy

Please cut along the line below, sign, and return. This is to acknowledge that you are familiar with the expectations for this course.

My child and I have read the course expectations. We understand the rules and policies. We know that we are welcome to ask questions by phone or email, and that we may request a conference at any time by calling 799-2400 to schedule.

student signature

date

parent or guardian signature

date