**Language Arts 7th Grade**

Ms. Nielsen

2012-2013

**Course Description**

 Seventh grade Language Arts offers an in-depth and challenging study of writing, reading, research, grammar, spelling, and related concepts. Each quarter includes a combination of these elements.

* Writing instruction focuses on the 6 traits of writing, making personal connections, and basic skills in evaluation of writing. *Students will need a separate notebook for this class to be used as a journal.*
* Reading instruction focuses on both fiction and non-fiction texts. Students will be required to read 400 pages per quarter outside regular class time. This will be documented on the Reading Log.
* Research instruction focuses on gathering quality information to answer questions, formatting and sharing the relevant information.
* Grammar will focus on subject-verb agreement and verb tense.
* *There will be a spelling list given to the students each Monday and a quiz on these words each Friday.* The weekly list will be available on the class website.

These areas of study are aimed toward preparing students for the CRT state exams that will be given in May.

**Materials for Language Arts**

Each day, students will need to bring a pencil, paper, a reading book, and a notebook (to be used solely for Language Arts). I encourage parents to invest in a flash drive for their students. It is helpful for them to have a copy of work we do in the computer lab, and will likely be used in uppe**r** grades as well.

**Major Writing Assignments**

 1st Quarter: Personal Narrative

 2nd Quarter: Persuasive Writing

 3rd Quarter: Research Paper

 4th Quarter: Creative Writing (if scheduling allows)

**Literature**

Book Reports (1 per quarter)

Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick

Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelsen

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

**All units, assignments, and important calendar dates will be posted on the course website:**

**http://msnielsenlangarts.weebly.com**