**English Language Arts**

Palmetto Middle School

Barry J. Hemingway, Room 131

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**Course Description**

In a balanced literacy classroom, literacy skills are often taught in separate times allocated in the school schedule for reading and writing. In learning to improve or build upon reading and writing skills, students need time to practice. Classrooms need to be structured so that students are given daily access to extended periods of time to read, write, and practice language and word study. The components in which the class are broken up are as follows;

* Read Aloud: Teacher Modeled Reading
* Independent Reading Workshop: Daily Independent Reading
* Guided Reading Workshop: Guided Instruction in Developmentally Appropriate Books
* Write Aloud: Teacher Modeled Writing
* Independent Writing Workshop: Daily Independent Writing
* Guided Writing Workshop: Guided Instruction in Developmentally Appropriate Writing
* Word Study: Guided and Independent Phonics, Spelling, and Etymology

**Class Daily Schedule (Balanced Literacy Framework)**

1. Vocabulary Instruction – 10 Minutes
2. Interactive Read Aloud – 10 Minutes
3. Mini Lesson – 10 Minutes
4. Shared Reading – 10 Minutes
5. Independent Reading – 25 Minutes
6. Writing Lesson – 5 Minutes
7. Time to Write – 20 Minutes

**Materials**

Loose-leaf paper

Pencil

Highlighters

Composition Notebook



**Instructional Technology**

Students will also have to complete assignments on District approved instructional technology to improve skills taught in class by teacher. Below are some of the many technology platforms that may be used;

* USA Test Prep
* iReady
* BrainPOP
* Flocabulary
* Live Worksheets
* Quizlet

***\*Teacher will not assign multiple instructional technology simultaneously***

**Policies**

Absences

* It is your responsibility to get assignments from Schoology or guided notes and/or reschedule any missed tests or quizzes.

**Discipline**

* All major infractions (e.g. cheating, plagiarism, violence, illicit substances, and sexual harassment) will be referred directly to administration.
* Other/minor infractions may result in the following consequences:
	+ Verbal warning
	+ Student conference with the teacher
	+ Parent contact
	+ Lunch detention
	+ Referral to administration

**Grading**

 **Grading Scale**

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

**Formal 70%**

* Tests/ major projects (40%)
* Quizzes (30%)

**Informal 30%**

* Assignments/homework/class work (20%)
* Writing (10%)

**Summative (test & major projects):** The goal for summative assessment is to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional unit.

**Formative (quiz):** The goal of formative assessments is to monitor student learning to provide ongoing feedback that can be used to improve as needed.

**Assessments:** Students will have tests and quizzes. The quizzes will be both scheduled and unscheduled.Students will know well in advance when their summative test will be scheduled. Students will complete individual and group assignments in class to include written work, projects, formal and informal assignments.

**Classwork/Homework:** All classwork must be turned in on the day it was assigned. If the teacher decides that enough class time was not permitted to complete the assignment in class, it may be completed for homework and turned in at the start of the next class period. If you are absent and miss a classwork/homework assignment it is your responsibility to check Schoology and complete all assigned task by Sunday midnight.

**Participation:** Students are responsible for participation in all class activities, lectures, and assignments. You will receive a grade based on your participation in class. This includes actively participating in lessons.

Parent/Guardian

Please return this sheet only to your child’s teacher.

Please read this course syllabus with your child, sign below and have it returned to me. If you have any questions now or throughout the school year please email me at bhemingway@marion.k12.sc.us or call 843-464-3730. I look forward to having a successful and productive year with your child.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_