**Ruth Fisher Elementary School**

**8th grade Language Arts**

**Instructor: Ms. Cerda Rm. 325**

**Contact: (623) 474-5501 ext. 5525**

**Email:** [**jennifer.cerda@smusd90.org**](mailto:jennifer.cerda@smusd90.org)

**Website:** [**http://mscerdasenglish.weebly.com**](http://mscerdashomepage.weebly.com)

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to engage the students and improve their appreciation for, and proficiency in, reading, writing, listening, speaking, and thinking.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, YOU will be able to demonstrate:

* Reading, Writing, and Critical Thinking Skills
* Analyzing texts for comprehension
* Testing Strategies

Reading Writing

1. Key Ideas and Details 1.) Types and Purposes
2. Craft and Structure 2.) Production and Distribution
3. Level of Complexity 3.) Research

4.) Range of Writing

**Class Materials:**

Students will be responsible for coming to class prepared, which means the following need to be brought every single day:

* Writing Utensils [Pencil, Black or Blue pen, and a Red pen]
* (1) 2 inch binder
* Composition notebook (college ruled)
* Highlighters (green, yellow, pink-are necessary)
* (3-5) Divider tabs
* (1) 3-prong pocket folder
* Reading Texts [Provided by Teacher]

***Possible*** Reading texts may include but are not limited to:

1. To Kill a Mockingbird
2. Clone Codes by Patricia C. McKissack
3. The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
4. Eragon by Christopher Paolini
5. The Maze Runner by James Dashner
6. Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt
7. Inkheart by Cornelia Funke

**Classroom Wishlist:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * **Binder rings- to hold vocabulary note cards together (circular)** * **Notecards** * **College ruled paper** * **#2 Pencils** * **Tissues** * **Highlighters [yellow, pink, and green]** * **Manila Folders (Writing Routine Folder, Projects/study guides, etc.)** * **Lysol/clorox wipes** | * **Sticky notes** * **Whiteout** * **Dry erase markers** * **Erasers** * **Hand sanitizer** * **Cough drops** * **Big markers** * **Color pencils** * **Glue sticks** * **Construction paper** * **Popsicle sticks** * **Small hand sharpeners** |

**Rules and Expectations:**

I strive to maintain a safe and encouraging environment as well as the necessary tools and strategies to complete each task throughout the course. However, no matter what I provide, it is the students who have a responsibility for their own education. Through respect, self-discipline, and responsibility, students take control of their own education and get the most out of a class.

**Rules:**

1. Be Prompt
2. Be Prepared
3. Be Respectful
4. Be Safe
5. Be Creative

* Students will come to class prepared to learn (paper, pencils, pens, books, attitude).
* Students will be seated quietly in their assigned seats when class has started.
* Students will respect the privileges of their learning environment.
* Students will ask for permission to speak in class by raising their hand.
* Students will NOT eat outside food, drink (except water), or chew gum in class.
* Students will use appropriate language in class and on all written assignments.
* Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any form. All work must be the student’s own work.
* Students are responsible to make up any work missed due to an excused absence.

**General Consequences:**

We will be using the Behavior Cards to monitor student behavior in each class. First offense will be a warning. After first offense marks will be given on the Chart as follows:

* First offense= Initial mark on chart
* 2nd offense= Behavior is marked on the card, lunch detention will be given
* 3rd offense= Behavior is marked on the card, lunch detention will be given, and parent contact is made
* 4th offense= Behavior is marked on the card, lunch detention will be given, and parent contact is made
* 5th offense=Behavior is marked on the card, lunch detention will be given, and student will be referred to the office with a written referral.

*\*The infractions will be over a 3 week time period. Parents need to sign the chart each week. (Please see chart for further explanation if student does not have signature)*

**\*\*\* Important Notice\*\*\***

**Late/Missing Work:**

Work turned in after the assigned date will be accepted for partial credit for up to **1 week** past. Any work turned in past 1 week late will **remain a 0.** Upon an absent, the student is responsible for acquiring the assignment and notes from the website, a peer, and/or Absent Folder. When turning in late work the student MUST write “absent” on their work. No late work will be accepted **3 days** before report cards.

**\*Students have the option to retake tests, turn in missing work, and receive help during the reteach /enrichment block\***

**Restroom Rules:**

Restroom passes are for emergencies only. Make sure to use your break times appropriately! You only get 1 pass a day! (not 1 a class).

**Grading System:**

10% Class Participation

* Attendance
* Bellwork
* Notes

20% Assignments

* In-Class activities
* Homework
* Grammar
* IXL

20% Projects

* Writer’s Workshops
* Projects
* Rough Drafts & Revisions

50% Assessments

* Tests [benchmarks]
* Final Drafts of Essays
* Quizzes/BT assessments

**\*The Teacher holds the right to add or take away from the syllabus at any time.\***

**A Little Bit About Me ^-^**

**Name:** Jennifer Cerda

**Birthday:** January 8th

**My favorite flower:** Rose

**Things I like:** Videogames, Anime, Hockey, Tea, I collect tea sets, knitting, writing poetry, black and white films, plays, ballets, and symphonies. Above all, I adore my family and my puppy Juliet.

Educational Background:

**2014 Grand Canyon University**

Master of Education: Curriculum & Instruction; Reading with an emphasis in Secondary Education

**2012**

Certification: Provisional Secondary Education 7-12   
 \*Structured English Immersion, K-12

**2008-2011 Northern Arizona University**

Bachelors of Science: Secondary Education; English

**2006-2008 Estrella Mountain Community College**

Associates of Arts, AGS and AGECT

**Please fill out and sign the following slip and return it to the teacher A.S.A.P.**

**------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**Student Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

We have read this syllabus and understand the guidelines of 8th grade Language Arts.

**Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\*\*\*EMAIL is my main form of contact. Please include a regularly checked email address\*\*\***

**Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Best time to contact: Between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

\*PTO is always looking for new members and volunteers. Do you have any interest with helping?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_

By signing the following I understand the rules, expectations, and will do my very best to maintain my behavior and complete the expected class assignments.

**Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**