**Mr. Cave**

**Grade 7 English Language Arts**

**Voyagers**

**2023-2024**

**Communication:**

* Email: gccave@auburnschools.org
* Office phone: (334) 887-1960
* Planning: E period
* Schoology: check updates daily! This is the primary way I will communicate with students.

**Required Materials:**

* 1” 3-ring binder
* 1 pack of 5 tab dividers, with or without pockets
* **College-ruled** notebook paper
* **College-ruled** composition notebook
* Pens and/or pencils and highlighters

**Course Description:**

In this class, students will develop their skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Through regular reading, purposeful writing, and meaningful engagement with content, students will strengthen their literacy skills and improve their critical thinking. Students will incorporate the *responsible* use of technology into their learning, as well as utilize and develop their creative skills. Social interaction and the ability to collaborate with other learners is a necessary skill, so students will often work in groups in addition to whole-class and individual work. It is my goal that students leave this class having grown not only in knowledge, but also in responsibility, independence, confidence, and self-accountability. Middle school is a time for positive change, and I am so excited to help guide my students this year.

**Grading Policy:**

* Major grades – 60% – tests, essays, projects, quizzes
	+ All tests, essays, and projects will be 100-point grades. Quizzes are major grades but will count less than 100 points.
* Minor grades – 40% – Reading checks, classwork, homework
	+ These assignments will vary in point value.

**Technology in the Classroom:**

We will use technology in our class this year, but students should only use technology for educational purposes, and only when they are instructed to do so.

* iPads being misused by students are subject to confiscation according to the ESS Student Handbook.
* Cell phones are to remain off and in lockers or backpacks unless told otherwise by the teacher.
* AirPods/earbuds/headphones are not to be used on campus unless told otherwise by the teacher.
* Apple Watches/smart watches may be worn as a timepiece only.
* iPads should be charged **every evening** and brought to school **every day** with a full battery.
* Failure by students to follow the classroom technology policy may result in confiscation of item(s) and/or disciplinary action according to the ESS Student Handbook.

**Discipline:**

Following rules and procedures in the classroom is necessary to ensure successful learning. It is normal for middle schoolers to make mistakes. However, to ensure that students learn and grow from those mistakes, discipline must be maintained in the classroom. I will enforce all schoolwide discipline policies and procedures in my classroom. For first and second offenses, students will receive a verbal warning. All subsequent offenses will result in the implementation of the schoolwide discipline policy as outlined in the ESS Student Handbook.

**Attendance:**

Please do your best to be in class each day. We understand that some absences are unavoidable, but attendance is one of the best tools for success in the language arts classroom. I will help absent students get caught up with their work, but students will always learn better by interacting with the teacher and other learners in the classroom. ***Tardy policy: students are allowed only two tardies to class each nine weeks. The third and all subsequent tardies will result in disciplinary action according to the ESS Student Handbook.***

**Missing Work and Late Work:**

It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that missing work—due to absence or otherwise—is made up. **Students will have three days to complete missing assignments after their return to school, after which point I will contact parents/guardians or pull students from P.E. No missing work will be accepted after the end of the unit.** If there is an assignment missing, a **zero** will be entered into PowerSchool. This is a placeholder and will be replaced by the actual grade once the work is submitted. Students are responsible for communicating with the teacher about work they missed while absent as well as checking Schoology and the missing work box in the classroom.

**Homework:**

Any work that is not completed by the student in class becomes homework and is expected for submission the next day unless otherwise indicated by the teacher. Parents and guardians can ensure that students are staying on top of their language arts assignments by checking that your student completed the day’s work in class and is not required to finish it at home. During novel study units, students will be required to read parts of the book for homework. Extended projects may also require work at home if students can not complete the entire project during class work time.

**Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:**

Plagiarism is taking someone else’s work and trying to pass it off as your own. **This includes copying the work of another student.** Academic dishonesty of any kind and to any degree will not be tolerated in this class or school. Students who plagiarize work will receive a **zero** for the assignment and a phone call home, and they may be subject to further disciplinary action according to the school handbook. Other forms of academic dishonesty that are against the policies identified in the ESS Student Handbook are as follows:

* Copying the work of other students
* Discussing test questions and answers with students in other classes
* Students having others complete work for them, both at school and at home
* Using internet programs to complete work

**Curriculum Night**

Curriculum night is scheduled for Thursday, August 17 at 6:00 PM.

Please make plans to attend to meet your student’s teachers and learn more about the 2023-2024 school year.

**Signature Page**

**Student and Parent/Guardian Signature:**

Please sign and date this syllabus on the lines below and **return ONLY the signature page**. By signing this syllabus, you confirm that you have read and understand the course information and policies as they are written in this syllabus. **The signing and submission of the signature page of this syllabus will be counted as a student participation grade.**

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_