**Syllabus**

**2018 - 2019**

**NSAA Middle School Language Arts**

**Mr. Luke Young** -  lyoung@aznsa.com

**Room 6A**

**Website:** [www.NSAAyoungEnglish.weebly.com](http://www.NSAAyoungEnglish.weebly.com)

**Remind Text Alert: *Text @cfbdcf to 81010***

**Office Hours:** Before School: Mondays

 Lunch: Tuesdays

 After School: By appointment

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This course will focus on the craft and structure of writing across genres and cultures. Students will engage in a study of the rules and conventions of writing and examine texts for deeper meaning, point of view, supporting evidence and conclusions. As scholars and artists, students will approach stories, non-fiction narratives and informational texts in creative applications such as plays, skits, dramatic readings, workshops, essay construction and peer reviews. Students will engage in the Socratic method of instruction and will develop skills in discourse by sharing their unique perspectives while using text evidence to support ideas and claims. Students should expect to engage in active vocabulary development, extended and in class writing assignments, class discussion, and participate daily. Students will also dedicate a significant amount of time to independent reading, and must have a chapter book to read each day during their independent reading time.

**Texts:**

**Fiction**

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

Nothing but the Truth by Avi

As You Like It by William Shakespeare

The Devil’s Arithmetic by Jane Yolen

**Non-Fiction**

 Disasters: Natural and Man Made Catastrophes Through the Centuries by Brenda Z Guiberson

Scope Scholastic Magazine (monthly)

*TBA -additional novels, short stories and narrative nonfiction*

**Course Objectives**

In addition to mastering the specific content related topics listed above, students will

* Attain and demonstrate a command of conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking
* Employ critical thinking skills and discussion through various genres of text
* Produce strong, clear, and coherent writing with organization and style used to explain, convince, and describe
* Engage in self-assessment, building knowledge, skills, and goals for themselves in a creative, productive environment to facilitate individual maneuvering within an educational and intellectual setting (preparation for High School)
* Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research

**Classroom Guidelines:**

*Attendance*

Prompt daily attendance is expected. All students must be seated in the classroom and prepared to learn when the class begins! Each tardy or unprepared class will cost the student academic points and negatively influence their grade. Additionally, if a student is aware of up-coming absences, it is their responsibility to inform the teacher before the absence(s) and arrange make-up or alternative work. **Any student who accumulates three or more tardies or unexcused absences in the same class in one month will be required to recover instructional minutes on the last Saturday of each month. Saturday attendance will be from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Failure to attend Saturday recovery hours may result in a schedule change.**

*Participation*

Participation is expected and evaluated, and it counts for 5 points daily. Be prepared to take part in class activities every day that we meet. Our class is a community and so you will be expected to share your writing and ideas in healthy ways which promote intellectual and emotional discovery.

*Missed Assignments*

If you missed a day (or more) of school for one reason or another, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed. You can consult the class website, ask a friend in class, or contact me directly. All extra copies of assignments will be in the colored folders on the bulletin board for Language Arts.

*Late Assignments*

Assignments need to be turned in on time. Deadlines are a life skill that all NSAA students need to learn and adhere to. If you are absent on the day an assignment is due, turn it in when you return (no penalty). Formal writing assignments may be submitted to my work email no later than 8 pm on the day the assignment is due. Late assignments will receive a 25% reduction each day that it is late. If you are struggling with the timeline for an assignment, please talk to me, we can find a solution.

*Class Conduct/Social Contract*

Students will conduct themselves at all times in keeping with the policies and standards of NSAA as detailed in the Student Handbook and the Parent/Student/School compact which is in the enrollment packet. Below you will find my policies and procedures.

* No food and drink (other than water). This is a school-wide policy.
* NO electronic devices are allowed in the classroom. This includes cell phones, gaming devices, etc. **They must be put away, out of sight, and silenced.** If I see them, I will confiscate them and you can get them at the end of the day.
* Raise your hand to speak
* Count down from 5 - when I count down from 5, I expect silence by the time I get to one.
* Always be respectful

*Bathroom Breaks and Water Policy*

Students should not be taking excessive bathroom trips. Students will be given a set number of bathroom passes for each quarter. Students must present these in exchange for a trip to the restroom, and so they must use them wisely. There is plenty of time for students to use the restroom before school and during lunch or between classes. If students have passes left over at the end of the quarter, they may redeem them as extra credit points. As for water: we have a water cooler in the classroom with disposable cups. I encourage each student to bring a hygienic water bottle so they may refill it throughout the day instead of wasting plastic cups. For students who do not have a water bottle, they may get a drink of water after asking permission, and they must finish their drink next to the cooler and throw away the cup. They may not bring the cups back to the tables. We have had too many spills and accidents.

*Film Sensitivity*

 ​On occasion, a film may be shown in class that has a rating of PG-13. A parent/guardian signature on the Social Contract grants your student permission to view these films. If you wish for your students to be exempt from viewing, please make a note on the Social Contract. Students who do not watch the film will be given an alternative assignment.

*Academic Honesty*

To plagiarize is to claim or represent as your own work which is ***not*** ***exclusively yours***. Plagiarism can include the use of others’ ideas and arrangements of ideas, as well as specific wording, and conclusions. If you are not sure whether you are accidentally claiming work as your own or do not understand how to cite sources, please come talk with me. I am glad to explain fully. Both plagiarism and cheating of any kind violate the ideals of academic and artistic integrity, and carry EXTREMELY serious consequences. If students are suspected of either, they will be sent immediately to Dean Cardenas.

*Documentation*

Save all your writing, including drafts and revisions, as well as notes, hand-outs, and returned assignments. These will be useful in preparing for the cumulative test at the end of each semester, and in case of some question or discrepancy regarding your grade. You will sometimes be required to submit earlier drafts with your finished essays. When writing on the computer, always keep a back-up and remember to print and preserve the multiple drafts as you progress through each project. Assignments will be turned into the “turn in” basket for your hour, and once they are graded, they can be found in the “return” basket.

*Discipline*

I use a three strike policy in my classes. If I need to address a student’s negative behavior, attitude, or actions more than two times in a single class period, then they will lose their participation points and receive an email or call home. Negative student behavior may also result in students being moved to isolated parts of the room or being excused from the activities and classroom for the day and working with admin on essay writing in the office.

*Remind*

We will be using the Remind App for text messages in this class. Both parents and students will receive reminders for homework, assignment due dates, and tests or quizzes. Students or parents who do not want to participate must sign a waiver that they will not be participating in the Remind program. The Remind App is free and only requires a cell phone number. The remind App will replace the weekly email reminders that we have used in prior years.

 *Benchmark and AzMerit Testing*

All Students will take Benchmark Tests in all NSAA courses: August 13-14, December 13 & 14, and May 16-17 and the AZMerit Exam (with the exception of seniors) sometime in April 2019. Part of the Benchmark Exam may be included in Semester Final Exams. Students must attend these days and will lose participation point for any absences. Test data is instrumental in being able to refine course work and effectively plan for the future. *Take note: This test data is often used for college entrance and scholarships; students should take the exams seriously and perform to their best ability.*

**Honors/gifted course is available; it is the student’s responsibility to see the teacher and plan for the gifted/honors program.**

**Grading by Semester:**

 Quarter 1: 40% Quarter 2: 40% Final Exam: 20%

**Required Materials:**

1 1” binder for dedicated to this class

1 3 hole punched folder

1 8 set binder tab divider

Writing Utensils (Pens *and* pencils)

College-ruled paper

 (If you anticipate this will be a problem, please let me know ASAP)

 **Failure to bring adequate materials to class will result in**

**loss of participation points for the day.**

**Recommended Supplies:**

Dictionary/Thesaurus

Library card

Internet access (for research)

* **Mr. Luke Young**

**Social Contract**

**The undersigned states that he/she has read and understands the syllabus and course policies as well as the NSAA Student Handbook and parent/student compact and agrees to abide**

**by the rules and policies set forth in these documents.**

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Student Name Student Signature

Parents must also sign the bottom of this page attesting that they have read and understood the policies and expectations of this course.

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Parent Name (Printed) Parent Signature

***The signed Social Contract is a graded assignment and is due on or before August 15th!***