

Syllabus for Seventh Grade

English & Literature

Mrs. Carolyn Polchow

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Website: www.immaculateheart.schoolwires.net



This course is designed to improve the student's use of both written and spoken English and to broaden and enhance reading comprehension and critical thinking skills.

Benchmarks and Performance Standards

Students completing course work for writing, speaking, and listening will:

- Write and speak with a command of Standard English conventions appropriate to grade level.
- Identify parts of speech and sentence structures.
- Demonstrate correct use of capitalization and punctuation.
- Place modifiers properly, use the active voice, identify and use infinitives and participles, make clear references between pronouns and antecedents.
- Spell correctly by applying the spellings of bases and affixes to root words and by using dictionary and spell check.
- Write and present to the class or share in groups focused, coherent narratives, summaries, and literature based persuasive essays that convey ideas clearly.
- Include introductions, concrete details, commentaries, and conclusions in essays.
- Revise writing to improve content, organization and word choice.
- Give credit for quoted and paraphrased information with proper citations.
- Use carefully written cursive or word-processing skills.
- Employ speaking techniques including voice modulation, inflection, tempo, enunciation, and eye contact for effective oral presentations.
- During class discussions, determine the speakers' or authors' attitudes conveyed in their presentations or literature and ask probing questions.

Students completing course work for vocabulary, reading, and literature will:

- Use knowledge of word origins and relationships, as well as historical and literary context clues, to determine the meaning of content area vocabulary.
- Identify idioms, analogies, metaphors and similes in prose and poetry.
- Clarify word meanings by definition, example, restatement or contrast.
- Read, understand, and respond to historically or culturally significant works of literature that reflect and enhance their studies of history and social science.
- Identify and analyze recurring themes across literary works.
- Articulate the expressed purposes and characteristics of different forms of prose and nonfiction.
- Analyze characters through their thoughts, words, actions or those of other characters or by the author's or narrator's descriptions

Policies and Procedures

Grades:

Students will earn class grades by participating actively in class as well as by completing homework, class work, oral and written presentations, tests, quizzes, and semester examinations. The following grade scale will be used:

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

Homework:

Homework is assigned to students on a daily basis and is always listed on the classroom whiteboard as well as on the school website (<http://immaculateheart.schoolwires.net>). Late homework will not receive full credit and will be marked down 10% each day it is overdue.

Tests and Quizzes:

Students will take tests and quizzes covering grammar, vocabulary, and literature. With the exception of pop quizzes, students will be notified well in advance of test dates. These dates will be posted on the website as well as on the classroom whiteboard. Make-up tests will only be given to students who were absent on the day of a scheduled test.

All homework, tests and quizzes must include the following heading:

○	First and Last Name Date	Subject Period/Grade
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Absences:

A student who has been absent must make-up **all work** that was missed while she was absent. It is **the student's responsibility** to obtain missed notes and assignments and to schedule make-up tests/quizzes with the teacher as she returns to school.

Extra Credit:

No extra credit is offered in this course.

Classroom Guidelines:

- Arrive to class on time. Room 110 is located in the basement so students should plan ahead, especially if traveling from the pool or Room 303.
- Enter the class prepared and ready to work. Promptly begin working on the DOL sentence on the whiteboard.
- Treat others with respect.
- Don't be afraid to take a risk and try something new or difficult! As Albert Einstein said, "Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new."
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated. You must present your thoughts in your own words.

Daily Oral Language:

Students are expected to maintain a notebook or section in their binder for daily written exercises in Daily Oral Language (DOL). At the start of each class, students will copy a DOL sentence into their notebooks and make appropriate corrections. A quiz is given after every 10 sentences, or about every two weeks.

Materials and Supplies:

- Three-ring binder with tabs for Homework, Notes, DOL, and Writing.
- 1 each—red, green, purple and black pen (for structured paragraph writing)
- Blue/black pens for class work and homework.
- Book covers (Trader Joe’s bags are the best!).

Library:

Our class will be visiting the Immaculate Heart library one/two times each month. In addition, we have a small in-class library students may use.

Textbooks, Novels & Plays Provided for Course:

- English Workshop*, Holt, Rinehart and Winston
- John Warriner’s English Composition and Grammar*, Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich
- Voculit: Reading Your Way to Word Power*, Perfection Learning Corporation
- Daily Oral Language*, Great Source Education Group
- Introduction to Literature*, Ginn and Company
- Tales from World Epics*, Amsco Publications
- Nine Muses, Modern Plays from Classic Myths*, Perfection Learning Corporation
- Junior Great Books*, Series 7
- Call of the Wild*, Jack London
- Cheaper by the Dozen*, Frank & Ernestine Gilbreth
- A Christmas Box*, Richard Paul Evans
- Daddy-Long-Legs*, Jean Webster
- Lyddie*, Katherine Patterson
- The Moorchild*, Eloise McGraw
- The Pearl*, John Steinbeck
- Our Town*, Thornton Wilder
- A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, William Shakespeare
- The Fixer*, Lois Lowry



Dear Parents and Students,

Please sign and return the entire syllabus. If you have any questions, please e-mail me at cpolchow@immaculateheart.org. ~Mrs. Carolyn Polchow

We have read and understand the class syllabus for English & Literature 7.

Parent/Guardian signature _____ Date: _____

Student signature: _____ Date: _____