

7th Grade ELA Syllabus

Mrs. Davenport
Cosby Elementary

1 Course Outcomes

Course Description:

This course is a combination of language arts and literature. The literacy skills of **reading, writing, speaking, listening, comprehending, and thinking** are taught. Students gain practice in **grammar, punctuation, and writing skills**. Assignments include all writing modes identified by the State of Tennessee: persuasive, narrative, and expository. I believe writing is a skill students will use throughout life, and writing, using critical evidence, can help students develop comprehension on various topics. Students will be taught how to develop ideas and organize them into a coherent work. Students will continue learning to use strong word choice, sentence fluency, and their own unique voice. Expanding vocabulary will also be a priority as this further enhances comprehension. In literature we read classic and contemporary literature, including short stories, dramas, and nonfiction. Personal connections, interpretations, and responses to literature are made to show understanding of the text.

Overall, my goal is to help students understand how critical thought, reading and writing will continue to propel them forward throughout their lives, no matter the classes they take or the careers they choose. I look forward to getting to know your child. I know each has their own gifts, talents, interests and experiences.

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/stateboardofeducation/documents/2019-sbe-meetings/february-8.-2019-sbe-meeting/2-8-19%20IV%20C%20English%20Language%20Arts%20Standards%20Attachment%20Clean%20Copy.pdf>

2 Instruction

Materials Needed: Computer, pencil, folder, highlighter, headphones

We will use: Amplify, Masteryconnect, Edpuzzles, Study Island, Quill, Novels

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ZisDytsD3Ut-fazdrxezei3VFNjvv3Es/edit?gid=2115119523#gid=2115119523>

- **Benchmark 1: October 1-9**
- **Benchmark 2: December 19-17**

- **Benchmark 3: March 2-12**

Writing Instruction	
1st 9 Weeks	Narrative Writing
2nd 9 Weeks	Informational Writing
3rd 9 Weeks	Argumentative Writing
4th 9 Weeks	Review of all writing
Amplify Instruction	
August 5-September 11	Red Scarf Girl
September 12-October 21	Brain Science
October 29-December 3	Poetry and Poe
December 5-9	Poetry in America
January 6-February 6	Call of the Wild
February 9-March 10	Gold Rush
March 23-27	Poetry in America “The New Colossus”
April	Review for TCAP using released TCAP items and old CASE tests
May	Hidden Figures

3 Assessment and Grading

- Grades will be updated weekly in ASPEN. Progress reports will be sent half way (4.5 weeks) through the 9 weeks.
- Masteryconnects Grading Scale:
 - 80-100=95A
 - 66-79= 85 B

- 45-65= 75 C
- 31-44= 65 D
- 30 and below= 55 F
- Tennessee Grading Scale:
 - 90-100 A
 - 80-89 B
 - 70-79 C
 - 60-69 D
 - Below 60 F
- Grade Weighting: Writing/Grammar 30%, Masteryconnect/Commonlit/Amplify 50 %, Quill, Khan Academy, Study Island 20%
- Amplify students will read, analyze text, answer questions, and write about text among other activities.
- Edpuzzles students will watch videos about ELA or grammar content and answer questions.
- Masteryconnect/passages students will read passages and answer comprehension or writing questions. These will be nonfiction, poems, and fiction.
- Students will write multiple essays throughout the year. We will write explanatory/informative, narrative, and argumentative. The rubrics are below.
 - https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/documents/rubric_writing_g6-8_explanatory.pdf
 - https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/documents/rubric_writing_g6-8_narrative.pdf
 - https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/documents/rubric_writing_g6-8_argument.pdf

Late Work/Grades:

- 1) Make-up work is due 3 days after returning. This is a board policy.
- 2) Please sign and return progress reports. You can also check your child's grades via ASPEN.
- 3) Outside time is a privilege. Students that owe work or have behavior issues may miss all or some of outside time.

4 General Expectations of Student

Behavior

Students are expected to behave appropriately during the school day and in all classes. This includes, but is not limited to: 1) No talking while the teacher is talking.

Chances are if you're talking then you're missing valuable information/instruction/directions and causing someone else to miss it as well. 2) Keep your hands and feet to yourself. We cannot stress this enough. 3) Please be quiet in the halls, especially during class changes. Just because we aren't in class doesn't mean that others aren't. 4) If it doesn't belong to you -don't touch it- don't take it! Not even as a joke. 5) ABSOLUTELY NO HORSEPLAY! This is a school rule. 6) Use the restroom in between classes. Bathroom breaks are a classroom disruption and we have no time to waste. We take 6 restroom breaks.

Behavior Chart:

7th grade uses a behavior chart similar to that used in 6th grade. The first 3 marks result in a penalty or loss of free time. If there is a 4th mark in the same week or a more serious offense (fighting, bus write-up, cell phone violation, etc.) we will call home to speak to a parent or guardian. A 5th mark will result in an office referral. Some instances, like bullying and physical violence, will go straight to an office referral.

****Please be sure to read the school handbook and policies. Pay special attention to the dress code and cell phone policies.**

Attendance

Attendance is a key factor in student achievement; therefore, students are expected to be present each day school is in session. The Director of Schools/designee shall develop appropriate administrative procedures to implement this policy.

The Attendance Supervisor shall oversee the entire attendance program which shall include:1

1. All accounting and reporting procedures and their dissemination;
2. Alternative program options for students who severely fail to meet minimum attendance requirements;
3. Ensuring that all school age children attend school;
4. Providing documentation of enrollment status upon request for students applying for new or reinstatement of driver's permit or license; and
5. Notifying the Department of Safety whenever a student with a driver's permit or license withdraws from school.2.

Student attendance records shall be given the same level of confidentiality as other student records. Only authorized school officials with legitimate educational purposes may have access to student information without the consent of the student or parent(s)/guardian(s).³

Absences shall be classified as either excused or unexcused as determined by the principal/designee. Excused absences shall include:⁴

1. Personal illness/injury;
2. Illness of immediate family member;
3. Death in the family;
4. Extreme weather conditions;
5. Religious observances;⁵
6. Pregnancy;
7. School endorsed activities;
8. Summons, subpoena, or court order; or
9. Circumstances which in the judgment of the principal create emergencies over which the student has no control.
10. Five parent notes per year will be accepted from the parent/guardian, but used by the school system if necessary, to excuse the first accrued absences not covered by the reasons listed above.

The principal shall be responsible for ensuring that:⁶

1. Attendance is checked and reported daily for each class;
2. Daily absentee sheets contain sign in/sign out sheets and indicate students present or absent
for the majority of the day;
3. All student absences are verified;
4. Written excuses are submitted for absences and tardiness; and
5. System-wide procedures for accounting and reporting are followed.

TRUANCY

Annually, the Director of Schools/designee will provide written notice to parent(s)/guardian(s) that attendance at school is required. Students shall be present at least fifty percent (50%) of the scheduled school day in order to be counted present. Students may attend part-time days, alternating days, or for a specific amount of time as indicated in their Individualized Education Plan or 504 Plan and shall be considered present for school attendance purposes. If a student is required to participate in a remedial instruction program outside of the regular school day where there is no cost to the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the school district provides transportation, unexcused absences from these programs shall be reported in the same manner.⁷

A student who is absent five (5) days without adequate excuse shall be reported to the Director of Schools/designee who will, in turn, provide written notice to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student's absence. If a parent/guardian does not provide documentation within adequate time excusing those absences, or request an attendance hearing, then the Director of Schools shall implement the progressive truancy intervention plan described below prior to referral to juvenile court.

Cell Phone Policy

Upon arrival on school grounds, students may possess a personal communication device with written permission from their parents. This permission will be kept on file in the school office. The personal communication device must be in the off mode and must be placed in a backpack, pocketbook or stored out of sight until the end of the school day. The principal or designee may grant a student permission to use the personal communication device at their discretion. Violation of this policy will result in the confiscation of the device for seven (7) calendar days for the first offense and thirty (30) calendar days for each offense thereafter. Should the device be confiscated within six (6) days before the end of the school year, it will be returned on the last school day. The device will be subject to search. If the 7th or 29th day occurs during a school break (Christmas or Spring Break, etc.), the phone will be returned the first day school resumes. School Administrators may allow students to complete after-school detention, not to exceed one hour per day, in order for devices to be returned before the 7th or 29th day. Any and all personal communication or electronic devices are not required, nor does the school assume any responsibility should these items be lost, damaged, stolen or confiscated. It is further the policy of the Cocke County Board of Education that the three paragraphs stated above are the minimum requirements regarding the use of cell phones on school grounds during instructional time. Individual schools are free to adopt more restrictive policies than written above so long as the same are submitted to and approved by the Cocke County Board of Education

5 General Expectations/Communication

- Mrs. Davenport
 - Email: davenportb@cocke.k12.tn.us
 - School phone: 423-487-3850
 - Parent Square App
 - Parents can contact me via e-mail or Parent Square between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

6 Plagiarism

According to Harbrace Handbook, 15th edition: Plagiarism is defined as “presenting someone else’s ideas, research, or opinions as your own without proper documentation, even if it has been rephrased.”

- This includes but is not limited to:
 - Copying verbatim all or part of another’s written work;
 - Using phrases, figures, or illustrations without citing the source;
 - Paraphrasing ideas, conclusions, or research without citing the source;
 - Using all or part of a literary plot, poem, or film without attributing the work to its creator.
- Consequences of Plagiarism
 - Plagiarism is a form of stealing and academic fraud. Students who are found guilty of plagiarism have the option of either redoing the assignment within a specified time period and accept a letter drop or taking a zero on the assignment. Parents are to be involved in making this decision.

General

Artificial Intelligence (AI) programs as defined by state law may be used by staff and students in the district.¹

Only approved AI programs may be utilized in student instruction or in completing student work. The Director of Schools shall develop a procedure for staff to submit additional programs for approval.

District technology staff are tasked with overseeing the implementation of AI programs. These staff members will review artificial intelligence programs to ensure compliance with district

policies as well as state and federal student data privacy laws and present recommendations to the Director of Schools for approval. Any approved programs shall be accessible to all students.

Employees shall not place personally identifiable information, financial information, intellectual property, or other confidential information into an AI system.

The Director of Schools shall incorporate training programs on AI into professional development for district staff. This training shall focus on responsible use of AI and best practices for use in school settings and include instruction regarding personally identifiable information and the need to comply with state and federal data privacy laws. Emphasis shall be placed on the importance of securing and properly storing any data that is collected by the district in compliance with state and federal law.

STAFF USE

Staff may use AI in the completion of their own work. This may include, but not be limited to, drafting communications, notes, images, and the development of content for instructional or administrative purposes, as well as analyzing data and information. The following requirements shall be adhered to when using AI in the completion of work:

1. Employees shall disclose their use of a generative AI tool if failure to do so would:
 - a. Violate the terms of the use of the AI tool;
 - b. Would mislead a supervisor or others as to the nature of the work; or
 - c. Would be inconsistent with the teacher code of ethic;.2
2. Employees shall take all reasonable precautions to ensure the security of private student data when utilizing AI programs;
3. Outputs from AI programs shall be verified by reliable sources and reviewed prior to use in order to reduce the risk of errors and inaccuracies; and
4. Outputs shall not be incorporated into proprietary content or works.

STUDENT USE

Teachers may allow students to use approved AI programs for instructional purposes. Any such use shall align with approved instructional standards and curriculum. Prior to using AI, teachers shall ensure students are provided with appropriate instruction on the responsible use of AI.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students shall be instructed on responsible use standards including but not limited to the following:

1. Effective use of generative AI;
2. When it is appropriate to use AI in assignments;
3. How to determine whether AI responses are accurate;
4. Users assume responsibility for incorporating AI content responsibly; and
5. The difference between cheating and seeking support.

NOTICE TO PARENTS

The Director of Schools shall provide notice to parent(s)/guardian(s) about the use of AI programs in the district. An approved list of AI programs will be provided by the technology department.

REPORTING

The Director of Schools shall submit a report to the Board of Education each June on how this policy will be enforced in the upcoming school year. The Board shall approve the report and the Director shall submit it to the Department of Education by July 1st.

7 Religion in the Classroom

The Board affirms that it is essential that the teaching about religion - and not of a religion be conducted in a factual, objective, and respectful manner in accordance with the following guidelines:

Educational content which consists of religious themes shall be presented in a factual, objective, and respectful manner in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Religious themes may be a part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs provided it is essential to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively;
2. The inclusion of religion shall be for educational purposes only;¹
3. The emphasis on religious themes should be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of the curriculum. Such studies shall never be used to proselytize, establish, foster, or demean any particular religion, religious tenets, or beliefs; and¹
4. Student-initiated expressions to questions or assignments which reflect their beliefs or non-beliefs about a religious theme shall be accommodated.

