

**Syllabus**

*Dear Blue Team Students and Parents/Guardians,*

*Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year and welcome to the 7th Grade Blue Team. The Blue Team teachers and support staff are looking forward to beginning a new school year and working with you. This will be an exciting year for all of us as we work hard and learn together. The team teachers and staff encourage you to read through this syllabus as it pertains to information that will help make this year a successful one.*



**Teachers and Support Staff**

Mrs. Karen Sanders, *Learning Specialist and Team Leader*

Ms. Emily Patrick, *Mathematics*

Mr. Jordan Lietz, *History and Science*

Mrs. Brittany Immormino, *English Language Arts*



**Website**

Stay current on classroom, team, and school happenings by visiting the MSJH 7th Grade website! The 7th Grade Team has a website for students and parents of both the Orange and Blue teams. A link to this site is available on the MJSH website under *Academics* and *Team Websites*. The direct link to this website is:

<http://7thblue.weebly.com/>

This website provides students and parents with access to contact information for teachers, links to teacher’s individual webpages, helpful learning links, photos of students, and, *most importantly*, the weekly homework calendar. We encourage you to bookmark the link to the 7th Grade Team webpage for quick access!



**Behavioral Expectations**

We have high academic and behavioral expectations for our students. The below expectations, which fall under the MSJH school-wide behavioral expectations, will be enforced fairly, firmly, and consistently by the 7Blue team teachers. Students who choose not to abide by the below expectations will earn a consequence appropriate to the misbehavior. Consequences include, but are not limited to, expectation reminders and detentions.

**1. Be Respectful…**to yourself, to peers, to adults, and to the school and its property. We ask that our students be respectful with their thoughts, words, and actions when in and out of the classroom. Some specific examples of respectful behavior include but are not limited to:

* asking for permission to speak and to get out of your seat by raising his/her hand
* saying “please” and “thank you” when appropriate
* using classroom supplies appropriately and putting them back where they go
* listening to peers and the teacher when they are speaking

**2. Be Punctual…**to class and with turning in assignments.Students need to be in class and seated when the bell rings. Unless a student has a pass or has permission from their teacher, he/she will be marked tardy. A student will earn an expectation reminder each time they are tardy to class. Just like being punctual to class, being punctual with turning in assignments is important in order to maximize the learning experience. The policy on late work will be discussed later in this syllabus.

**3. Follow Directions…**the *first* time they are given. It is imperative that students pay attention and listen closely when directions are given. Whether asked to or not, we encourage students to write down any and all directions given. Do not rely on memory alone.

**4. Stay Focused…**in class at all times. When working in class, it is a student’s duty to stay mentally and physically engaged in the learning process. While in class, use the 7th Grade SLANT motto to help you stay focused and to help you be an active learner*:* ***S****it up,* ***L****isten carefully,* ***A****sk and answer questions,* ***N****od, and* ***T****rack the speaker.*

**5. Display Integrity…**at all times. Integrity is defined as the quality of being honest and acting with strong moral values. Students must conduct themselves with integrity at all times so that honesty is never questioned.

**6. Be Ready to Learn…**each and every day.Bring the appropriate materials *(i.e. assignment notebook, pencil, binder, and independent reading book)* to class *every day* and have all homework completed. At the start of class, the board will have tasks that need to be completed upon entering the classroom. It is each teacher’s expectation that students read the board and complete those tasks immediately upon arrival to each class.

Assignment Notebook:As part of *Ready to Learn*, students must have their assignment notebook with them at all times. This is a Mahomet-Seymour Junior High School policy. Students will record their assignments and other important information in this notebook. These notebooks also serve as a pass to and from class. If a student does not have an assignment notebook at this time or loses it at any point in the year, they will need to get one from the front office.

Independent Reading Book: Students will have time each week to read novels of their choosing. In addition to this, there will be times when a student is finished with a task and others are not. At this time, students will be asked to read their independent reading book. Electronic readers are permitted, but MSJH is not responsible if devices are broken, stolen, etc. Expectation reminders will be issued if a student does not have an independent reading book in their possession. Independent reading books should be taken to every class, not just English Language Arts.

Electronic Devices: From time to time, students will be asked to bring their electronic device (iPad, Kindle, cell phone, etc.) to class as an aid for a task (research, Kahoot! quiz, dictionary reference, etc.). This device must be able to access the Internet. Students will be told when they need to bring their device. Bringing these devices to class is not mandatory. Please remember, MSJH is not responsible if devices are broken, stolen, etc. Per the MSJH handbook, students are not permitted to carry cell phones with them unless they have been given permission to do so by a teacher. Cell phones should be silenced and in lockers during the school day.

Food/Drinks/Gum: Because 7th graders do not each lunch until 7th hour, students are allowed to bring a snack to their 5th and 6th hour class. Unless given permission, we disallow students bringing food to any other class. We do allow students to bring water (no flavoring or other additives) in a plastic bottle (no metal or glass bottles) to class and to chew gum. If any issues arise, however, food, water, and/or gum will be prohibited.

**7. Dismissal from Class…** Students will be dismissed from class by the teacher, not the bell. Please be respectful of your teachers and peers and do not start packing up prior to the bell. Teachers will never intentionally make students tardy to their next class.



**Academic Guidelines/Expectations**

As stated above, the Blue Team teachers have high academic expectations for all students. In order to perform well on assignments, tests, and projects, students must complete all assignments to the best of their ability. Please read questions carefully and answer all questions using complete sentences when necessary. Students should always proofread their work and/or have someone else proofread their work. And if students have questions on any work for any subject, they need to ask. Teachers do not know what a student does and does not understand if they do not communicate with their teacher.

***Grades & Skyward Access:*** Students will be assessed in their learning in a variety of ways in each of their classes. Teachers will update grades at least once a week. Grades can be accessed using Skyward. The MSJH grading scale is as follows:

90-100 = A 80-89 = B 70-79 = C 60-69 = D 59-Below = F

At the beginning of the school year, each student will be provided a Skyward login and password and will be encouraged to download the Skyward app on their phones to allow for quick access to their grades and records. The Blue Team teachers highly encourage both students and parents to monitor grades on Skyward frequently.

***General Assignments/Late Work Policy:*** Homework will be assigned throughout the week in each of the core classes. Please have homework completed before coming to school. Unless otherwise instructed, students will not be allowed to finish homework prior to class starting. A student’s first and last name and class hour must be labeled in the upper right hand corner of every paper.

All assignments are due at the beginning of the period unless otherwise instructed. Because it consumes valuable learning time, students will not be allowed to return to their lockers to retrieve homework; it will simply be considered late and can be turned in at a later time that day. A reduction of 10% will be assigned to an assignment’s final grade for every day it is late. A paper that is more than 4 days late will receive a maximum grade of 60%. Late work deadlines will be at the mid-term and at the end of the quarter.

***Make-up Work:*** Upon returning to school, students who have been absent are responsible for obtaining missed notes, assignments, and tests from each of their teachers. It is a *student’s* responsibility to ask his/her teacher what they have missed. This work should take approximately the same time as the time missed from class. Therefore, the number of days a student is absent will constitute the number of days they have to complete make-up work. If the student has a planned absence, it is his/her responsibility to notify his/her teachers prior to the absence and to request homework assignments. All pre-assigned work will be due on the day the student returns to school.

***Extra Credit:*** Whole class extra credit opportunities will be given out at a teacher’s discretion. Students should not ask for extra credit.If students work to their fullest potential at all times, extra credit will not be necessary.

***Catch-up Club:*** Catch-up club is an after-school program offered every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (excluding early dismissal days). Catch-up club provides a quiet environment for students to get work done and to have access to computers if needed to complete an assignment. During this time, students can also get assistance, when needed, from the catch-up supervisor and/or possibly meet with their classroom teacher.



**Behavior Celebrations**

As part of the MSJH schoolwide PBIS program, 7th Grade Blue and Orange teams hold celebrations to thank our students for their hard work, academic dedication, and excellent behavior. Every Friday, students who have no missing work for the current quarter and who have received no expectation reminders, lunch resets, and/or detentions for the current week will attend a *Fun Friday Celebration*. Activities during *Fun Friday Celebrations* will vary but are always a blast!

At the end of each month, 7th Grade Blue and Orange teams hold *End-of-the-Month Celebrations*. The requirements to attend the *End-of-the-Month Celebrations* are the same as those for the *Fun Friday Celebrations* mentioned above. Something special done at the *End-of-the-Month Celebrations* is the recognition of Students-of-the-Month. A select number of students will be awarded with a Student-of-the-Month certificate as well as a small reward for their academic and behavioral excellence.

**Communication**

Communication between students, parents, and teachers is essential in the learning process. The Blue Team teachers highly encourage parents to be proactive and make contact with their child’s teacher if any concerns arise. Similarly, students are allowed and encouraged to email their teachers with questions. Contact information for each Blue Team teacher can be found on the MJSH and Blue Team Webpages and in the syllabus.

In situations where appropriate, teachers will use email as a primary source of contact as it is more efficient for everyone. Parents/guardians need to be sure a correct email address is listed in Skyward.

 **Team Teachers**

***Learning Specialist and Blue Team Leader***

**Mrs. Karen Sanders**

**E-mail: *ksanders@ms.k12.il.us***

**School Phone: *217-586-4415 ext. 4129***

**Room: *129***

*Hello! My name is Mrs. Karen Sanders and I am the 7th Grade Blue Team Leader as well as the Learning Specialist for the Blue Team. I have taught in the district 15 years. Prior to that I taught in Charleston and Rantoul. I live in Mahomet and had my three children go through the Mahomet School System. I now have the pleasure of seeing my grandchildren start school here. I have been married for thirty-one years.*

*I have co-taught math, language arts, as well as, science and history. We have a great staff and look forward to having your students in class. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with me.*

***Mathematics***

**Ms. Emily Patrick**

**E-mail: *epatrick@ms.k12.il.us***

**School Phone: *217-586-4415 ext. 4113***

**Room: *113***

*Welcome to 7th grade math! This year I will be teaching two 7th grade math classes and one advanced 7th grade math class. One of my classes will be co-taught with Mrs. Sanders and myself. Math class will be double blocked (approximately 80 minutes), in order for the students to grasp the challenging mathematical concepts in full.*

*I am originally from Sullivan, Illinois, where I grew up with my three sisters. I moved to Mahomet three years ago with my husband, Eric, and my son, Nathan who is currently in third grade at Lincoln Trail. This is my eighteenth year teaching middle school students, and my third year at MSJH. In addition to working in this district, I have also spent time teaching science, social science, and reading at middle schools in Lincolnton, NC, and Mattoon, Illinois. Teaching at MSJH has been an amazing experience so far, and I am extremely excited for the 2017/2018 school year!*

**Course Description:**

The math program MSJH has adopted, College Preparatory Mathematics (CPM), is a teamwork based curriculum. CPM allows students to work together as a team of 3 or 4 using problem solving skills to figure out real-world problems. As the teacher, I will be facilitating each group, asking question, guiding each group, explaining concepts, and assisting all students in need of help. Frequently, we will come together as a whole class to re-explain different strategies on how to solve problems.

**7th Grade Math (CC2)**: Topics covered in this course include probability, fractions and integers, arithmetic properties, proportions and expressions, solving word problems, solving inequalities and equations, percentages, statistics and angle relationships, and circles and volume.

**7th Grade Advanced Math (CC3)**: Topics covered in this course include problem solving, simplifying with variables, graphs and equations, multiple representations, systems of equations, transformations and similarity, slope and association, exponents and functions, angles and the Pythagorean theorem, and surface area and volume.

**Grading:** The grades for math class are weighted based on the category. The bulk of the grade (60%) will be based on individual tests and quizzes, projects, and team quizzes. The remaining 40% of the grade will include homework, in class work, teamwork, journals, and class notes.

**Additional Help:** I am available for help outside of class with one day of notice. Students generally come either before or after school. If absences occur, it is highly recommended to schedule a time outside of class to review the material missed. I also have a study session the morning of each individual test that is from 7:40am – 8:10am in my classroom.

**Online Textbook:** Every student has access to an online ebook. Within the first few weeks of school, each student will receive a URL, username, and password to log in to their ebook. The online textbook has homework help options and additional support for the students.

***History & Science***

**Mr. Jordan Lietz**

**E-mail: *jlietz@ms.k12.il.us***

**School Phone: *217-586-4415 ext. 4109***

**Room: *109***

*My name is Mr. Lietz, and this will be my fifth year teaching at MSJH. I teach Early US History, and an Introduction to Biology. I am from Champaign, Illinois where my mom was a teacher for nearly thirty years. I love my wife, my nephews, and Illinois sports. I am currently working towards my Master’s degree at the University of Illinois.*

**Course Description (HISTORY):** 7th Grade History will be a deep and fun look at early American History (mostly).  We will focus on our continent as a whole.  Therefore, we will begin by studying the early people who lived on the North American continent and about some of their successes, failures, interactions, issues, and their culture.  We will talk about early European explorers and their discovery of the "New World" and how that led to a rush for land.  We will examine how the United States was formed, and the key issues, events, and individuals that helped shape the country from 1776-1870.

**Course Description (SCIENCE):** 7th Grade science is a study of Biology, or the study of living things. We begin the year discussing what it means to be ALIVE and what all living things have in common with each other. Then we begin to look at the basic unit of all living things, the cell. As the year progresses we zoom out until at the end of the year we’ve studied the 5 kingdoms of life and then examine how they all interact with each other and how they interact with the environments they inhabit. We will study Viruses, DNA, Genetics, Heredity, Anatomy, Classification, Ecology and the 5 Kingdoms: Bacteria, Protista, Fungi, Animals and Plants.

**Grading, Assignments and Textbooks:**

A student’s grade is based on total points earned from in-class activities, lab reports, homework, quizzes and tests. All tests will be announced at least a week in advance and will almost always be accompanied by a study guide. If you miss a quiz or test, you will be given one extra day to make sure your review sheet is finished. Then you will make up the quiz or test.

Throughout the year, a great deal of group work, sharing, labs, online projects, and in-class projects will be done, and we will read from lots of different resources *(textbook, newspaper articles, primary sources, etc.).* Students will be assigned a textbook so that they can complete any work they didn’t complete in class; they can keep this book in their locker at school or at home. A set of textbooks will be available in class so students will not need to bring their assigned textbook to class.

**Labs:**

When labs/experiments are conducted, students will work in small groups to evaluate a specific question or problem. Oftentimes, these labs are time-sensitive, which means there is a limited amount of time to make up labs. AVOID BEING ABSENT ON LAB DAYS. It will make your life and my life much easier. Any missed labs will most likely have to made-up before or after school.

Please handle lab equipment with care. The materials are expensive and can, when used inappropriately, cause harm. Students are not allowed to eat or drink during a lab. Spilling or mixing your food or drink with any of the lab/experiment materials may be harmful to a student or to the lab/experiment being conducted.

***English Language Arts***

**Mrs. Brittany Immormino**

**E-mail: *bimmormino@ms.k12.il.us***

**School Phone: *217-586-4415 ext. 4111***

**Room: *111***

*Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year and welcome to 7th Grade English Language Arts! ELA is a double-blocked class, giving students the benefit of 80 minutes of ELA instruction every day. One of the ELA classes will be co-taught by both myself and Mrs. Sanders.*

*This year will be my 11th year teaching, however, it is my first year in the district. Teaching isn’t my job, it’s part of who I am. It is important to me for all students to find success in ELA, even if it’s not their best or favorite class. When I’m not grading assignments or doing other teacher things, I spend a lot of time outdoors in my garden, hiking, biking, and anything else I can do with my family. I have two daughters, Olivia, 5, and Gianna, 3, Andrew, my husband, and 3 crazy dogs, Gracie, Shelby, and Rico. Even though things might be crazy at my house, I am always available to help students and parents; please contact me about any questions or concerns that may arise throughout the year.*

**Course Description:**

The 7th Grade English Language Arts course enhances students’ ability to work both independently and collaboratively while strengthening reading, vocabulary, critical thinking, spelling, grammar, writing, listening, and presentation skills. The curriculum has been designed to emphasize the connection between reading and writing. The Common Core Learning Standards strongly drive all lessons and activities.

**Reading-** As a class we will read two novels this year, *Legend* and *Chains*, along with non-fiction texts, poems, and articles. This year, students will be thinking deeply and critically about what they read. A strategy called *close reading* will be utilized throughout the school year. This strategy requires students to closely read and analyze text. *Close reading* enhances a student’s ability to comprehend and retain what they have read. What’s more, it strengthens their ability to read and understand challenging texts and to build meaningful connections between two or more texts.

**Grammar-** Students’ understanding and application of correct grammar through grammar practice and writing will be taught and reinforced.

**Writing-** Writing is an essential life skill. Therefore, students will write a lot this year, having the opportunity to strengthen this essential life skill. We will discuss and practice the four main types of writing: narrative, descriptive, persuasive, and expository.

**Listening/Speaking-** Students will practice listening and speaking skills through their participation in class discussions. Students will also be asked to deliver at least 4 presentations this year.

**Independent Reading/Reading Projects:** Students will have silent, sustained reading time each week. Students will be expected to read books that are within their Lexile reading range and that are of interest to them. Students reading below their Lexile level is acceptable, but they are encouraged them to stay at or above their level. Quarterly reading goals will be established and/or projects will be completed. These goals and projects will be discussed at a later date.

As you can see, English Language Arts contains many disciplines. If students would like to stay better organized, they are encouraged to have additional tabs behind the main ELA tab. This is optional, but if a student chooses to have additional tabs, please label them with the following: *Reading*, *Writing*, *Vocabulary*, *Grammar,* and *Special Projects.*

**Grading:** Grading categories include but are not limited to classwork, homework, quizzes, special projects, and tests. Grades are calculated by cumulative points throughout the quarter, meaning the total points earned by the student will be divided by the total possible points offered in the class to get the final grade percent. Grading categories are *not* weighted in English Language Arts.

**Library Access:** Students have the opportunity to visit the library before and after school, during lunch, and during ELT on certain days. In addition to this, classes will visit the library at least once a quarter. Students also have the opportunity to check out books from Ms. Immormino’s classroom library. Students who damage or fail to return books will be asked to replace them. Students are encouraged to get, if they do not already have one, a library card from the Mahomet Public Library.

**Book Orders:** There will be an opportunity to order books monthly through Scholastic Book Club. Students are highly encouraged to send cash (exact amount) or check made payable to Scholastic. Please put all ordering slips and payments in an envelope. Parents and students can also order online at Scholastic.com. The link will be sent out at a later date.

*We chose the teaching profession because we care about children and desire for them to value education and hard work just as we do. Our ultimate goal for our students is for them to thrive academically all the while learning and appreciating the importance of responsibility, effort, punctuality, respect, and integrity. More than anything, we want our students to know that we are here for them! We are always willing to help and support our students.*

*We are going to have fun this year, for sure! Enjoy yourself! Participate! Work hard! Accept challenges! Smile and laugh! Be a friend to people you’ve never been a friend to and get to know friends even better.*

*Students and parents, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for your support, and we wish you and your child a successful school year!*

*The Blue Team*

**7th Grade Blue Team**

**2017-2018 Syllabus Acknowledgement**

*Please complete and return this page only to your first hour teacher on or before* ***Friday, August 25th, 2017****.* *Returning this acknowledgement will be the first assignment students receive and will be worth 10 points in each of their classes. 10 points will be earned if this acknowledgement is turned in by the above due date. For each day it is late, the student’s grade will be reduced by 10%.*

I have read and understand the 7th Grade Blue Team Syllabus. I agree to respect and abide by the policies and procedures discussed in this syllabus for the duration of the 2017-2018 school year.

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(Student Signature)

(Date)

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(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date)