**Language Arts**

Mrs. Honn Room 1106  
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425-837-6941

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**Units of Study**

- Courage
- Nonfiction
- Poetry
- Dystopia

Please have a way to save your work between school & home.

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**Reading**

**Writing**

**CLASS EXPECTATIONS**

1. Take responsibility for your own learning.
2. Please participate! The more you put in, the more you (and the rest of us) get out.
3. Please respect yourself, your classmates, and me. Be kind. I promise to do the same.
4. Reflect on your behavior and make amends if you have caused harm to another person and to our community.
5. We will all try our best to come to class every day prepared, ready to learn, and with a positive attitude.
6. We will follow school rules and expectations as stated in the PCMS planner and will strive to practice our school HEROES goals (Health, Excellence, Relationships, Opportunities, Equality, Safety).

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**Assessments & Projects**

100%

- Class & Homework
  - Work habits
  - Initiative
  - Collaboration
  - Citizenship

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**Assignments**

All assignments are important for learning. It is necessary for assignments to be completed and turned in on time in order for students to interact with the material they are expected to learn. Late work must be turned in before the end of the unit to receive credit. Work turned in after the end of the unit will not be accepted for credit.

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**Assessments**

Formative assessment: unit work  
Summative assessment: unit project and/or essay

Each reading and writing unit will include a project and/or essay. Sometimes standards will be assessed in smaller assignments; other times standards may be assessed in a culminating essay or project. Students will be given a retake or redo opportunity, but must meet with me prior to the redo so that we can address individual learning needs. If unit work was not completed, students will need to complete missing work before they can have a redo opportunity.
Mrs. Honn, 7th Grade Language Arts Syllabus: Important Information in a Nutshell

All students will grow in their learning and skill set.

Class Units
Reading: Students will have a range of book choices for each of our three reading units: The Courage to be An Individual, a non-fiction unit, and a dystopia unit. I will send book lists home (via email) prior to each of our reading units. If you would like to see these titles sooner, please let me know. We may also use other text sources from time to time, including a literature textbook, articles, nonfiction texts, picture books, poetry, and novels.

Writing: Students will be writing throughout the year. Major writing units include a memoir, a photo essay, and an argumentative essay. We will also be writing short pieces in various genres as well as a variety of poetry.

Speaking & Listening: Your student will have multiple opportunities and assignments that focus on public speaking and the skills of listening.

Vocabulary & Grammar: We will use the SAT Vocabulary program to enrich student vocabulary. Each week, your student will be introduced to 4 new vocabulary words. There will be a weekly vocabulary quiz and a cumulative trimester final. Grammar skills will be embedded into the reading and writing units. In addition, we will have periodic weekly grammar lessons and quizzes.

Understanding the Grade Book
The grade book will reflect both student mastery of the Common Core Standards in language arts and a non-academic component that will reflect student work habits, initiative, collaboration, and citizenship. Because this is an assessment based grading system, it is critical that your student complete all assessment-based work. Assessment work must be completed to a high standard and demonstrate mastery of material in order to earn a grade that meets standard. These standards will be made very clear to students using rubrics and other guides. Completion of work alone is not a measure of student learning. Students are encouraged to seek help and ask questions for clarification and support.

Extra credit will not be an option (this is the policy for all 7th grade humanities classes); students need to do their best learning and best work. They will have multiple opportunities to practice and show understanding. Assessment retakes will be a part of the classroom growth and learning model. Students will also be active participants in assessing their own work throughout the school year. Students are encouraged to reflect on their grade and behavior, look through returned work and feedback, and to talk with me if they do not understand a particular grade or expectation. Check Family Access (the grade book) often to track student progress and speak to me right away if you have concerns.

How Grades are Calculated
My gradebook is designed to show what your student has learned. All grades are calculated by assessment and projects at 100%. While assignments will have due dates and be checked for completion, they will be entered into a 0% category in the gradebook. They will show up as missing work if they are not turned in. Assessments and projects will allow students to show what they have learned. If your student meets standard (85%) on an assessment, they will not be required to retake or redo the work. If they do not meet standard on the assessment or project, they must show continued work with the content and redo parts that they have not mastered. Students who meet standard on the unit work will have the opportunity to increase their grade by redoing their work if they choose. All students who retake part of an assessment or project will be required to meet with me to go over their work and to schedule a retake either before or after school.

Assignments, Late Work, and Tardies
As part of my goal to support student learning and growth, I honor the fact that students are busy and have many responsibilities. Therefore, students will generally have a window of time to turn in assignments. All work must be turned in by the end of the unit in order to receive credit for the work. Assignments that are not turned in will show up as missing work. Missing and late work will also be tracked as a work habits grade. Not doing assignments often results in not showing mastery of content on assessments.

Students are expected to come to class prepared each day. They will be allowed one reminder if they need to go back to their locker for supplies. After this, a student will be counted tardy if they need to go back to their locker. After three tardies, I will send an email home. If a student continues to come to class unprepared, they will be sent to the office.
**Academic Dishonesty**
Cheating and plagiarism are a serious offense. If I find work that has been plagiarized, I will work with the student to determine reasons for the behavior. Consequences will follow the school policy.

**Student Absence**
If you know your student will be absent, it is helpful to have them talk with me about this in advance. I cannot promise I will be able to assign work for them to do at that time, but communicating this could be beneficial for your student’s success (and stress level). If your student is absent, it is their responsibility to inquire about and complete any work assigned while they were out. They will have one day for each day they were out to make up their work. Assignments are also listed on my website and you and your student are encouraged to check here for our weekly schedule and work.

**Teacher Absence**
In the event that I am out of the classroom and we have a guest teacher, students are expected to treat the guest teacher with respect, kindness, and a helpful attitude. Should I receive a report from a guest teacher stating the contrary, I will work with the student to make amends and I will reach out to the student’s family.

**Understanding Cell Phone Use in the Classroom**
I will allow cell phone use in the classroom for academic purposes only. Please see cell phone guidelines on my cell phone policy page.

**In-class Films**
From time to time we will be listening to songs and watching film clips, documentaries, and movies to support student learning. These experiences are meant to enhance student understanding of curriculum.

**How to Contact Me**
Email is the most efficient way to reach me. I will respond within 48 hours. I am also available 30 minutes before or after school by phone, and I am happy to schedule an appointment with you if you would like to meet.

honnie@issaquah.wednet.edu
425-837-5941

I look forward to sharing a successful year of learning and growing with your student!
Mrs. Honn’s In-Class Cell Phone and Personal Device Policy

This year I will continue to use our school policy which allows students to use cell phones in the classroom at the teacher’s discretion. There are specific guidelines students must follow in order to maintain the privilege of using the device as a tool to enhance learning in my classroom. My classroom guidelines are as follows:

- Cell phones must be kept out of sight (not simply on a student desk) unless your student has express permission to use it as a learning tool.
- All cell phone use in the classroom requires my permission.
- Students are not allowed to record, videotape, or take pictures of the teacher or other students in the class.
- Students must leave their phones with me in the classroom when they leave the room to use the bathroom.
- Students will follow instructions given by teacher in using personal devices according to the course assignment or project’s purpose and task.
- Students will not go to any inappropriate sites on their devices.
- Students will not use their devices in this class for personal communication (i.e. calling or texting parents, family or friends; visiting web sites not listed in assignment; using social media).
- Students are not allowed to listen to music or wear headphones or earbuds without permission from the teacher.
- Students will respect each other’s property.
- Students realize that this privilege is for this course only and will not try to use personal devices in another course in the school unless directed by the teacher.
- Students will agree to abide by all district enacted policies regarding the use of personal devices.

If a student chooses to disregard these guidelines, I will take the cell phone until the end of class. If repeated disregard of the rules occurs, cell phones will be taken and given to the office staff where PCMS rules will be enforced.

It is not mandatory for your student to have a personal device in the classroom. That being said, some assignments will require the use of technology. Computers and iPads are available for in-class use. Upon leaving my classroom at the end of the period, students are expected to abide by the school’s published cell phone rules as stated in the school planner (see below).

PACIFIC CASCADE MIDDLE SCHOOL GENERAL RULES

Electronic equipment such as iPods, MP3 players, computer games, cameras, hand held video games and cell phones are distracting to student learning and will be taken at staff discretion. **Electronics, including Cell Phones, must be OFF and put away while at school.** Some classrooms allow the use of cell phones as instructional technology. Classes that utilize cell phones will hold students to the electronic user policy for that classroom. PCMS is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen cell phones.

**Telecommunication/Electronic Devices** - Cell phones or any other electronic devices shall not disrupt the educational process. Students are not allowed to use school telephones except in emergency situations. Cellular phone use is prohibited during the school day. Please help your student by communicating schedules and planning the materials needed for school the next day. In addition, no mechanical or electronic device shall be used to audio or video record any classroom instruction or activity on district premises immediately before, immediately after and during the school day or on district provided transportation without the express permission of the classroom teacher and administrative staff at the school. The school reserves the right to inspect a student’s
personal communication device/electronic equipment, e.g., cell phone, laptop, e-reader, etc., if there is reason to believe the student has violated the Responsible Use Guide, school rules, or engaged in other misconduct while using their device.

**PCMS Cell Phone Discipline**

First offense – Student picks up after school from office. The student will be informed that next offense will result in parents being contracted and will receive 1 day of lunch duty.

Second offense – Student picks up after school from office, receives 1 day of lunch duty and parent is called.

Third offense – Student receives 2 days lunch duty and **parent** must pick up the phone from the office.

Fourth offense – phone is given to Mr. McGowan, parent will be called and a parent, student, administrator conference will be held.

**Classroom Videos**

The following videos may be shown in your student’s 7th grade Language Arts classroom this year. The Issaquah School District requires parent permission to watch these videos because they are more than 45 minutes in length. Please sign the form below to indicate that your student has permission to watch the following films. If you don’t grant permission, please indicate for which film(s) in the space provided on the signature page. An alternate activity will be provided to learn the content with no penalty to the student.

**LANGUAGE ARTS VIDEO MATERIAL RELATED TO CURRICULUM**

1. The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street (*The Twilight Zone*. By Rod Serling. 1960. DVD.)
   a. This is used in conjunction with the radio play version of the story in the literature textbook. Students will compare and contrast the written version to the filmed version, analyzing how story elements interact and how the theme is developed in each version.

   a. Students will compare and contrast the film version with the play in the literature textbook. Students will learn about different choices directors and writers make and how those choices affect story telling.
Signature Page
After reading through each of the above class guidelines, please sign with your student and have your student return THIS PAGE ONLY to class by Tuesday, September 11th.

By checking the boxes and signing below, students and guardians are stating that they understand the following guidelines and agree to adhere to them.

☑ Class Syllabus

☑ Class Cell Phone & Personal Device Policy

☑ Class Movies

☐ Please have a system to electronically transport materials to and from class (USB drive, email account, electronic file “on the cloud”). A back up is always a good idea.

If you would like assistance with any of the classroom requirements, please reach out and I will help you resolve any hardship.

Video Permission Form

☐ I give my student permission to watch all the films in class.

☐ I do not want my student to watch the following films:

________________________________________

Please circle which class period your student is in.

Class Period: 2 4 6

Date: ☐ Language Arts

Student Name (please print): ______________________________________

Student Signature: ______________________________________

Parent/Guardian Name: ______________________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature: ______________________________________