

Communication Arts

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I. Rationale

The purpose of Communication Arts is to provide students with a solid foundation oral and written English as well as exposure to various forms of literature. This experience will continue their growth of basic communication and problem solving skills vital to their scholastic success.

II. Course Description:

The Communication Arts course is designed to build on students' development of skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical thinking. A variety of reading and writing experiences will be offered to challenge students to refine their critical and creative skills. Students will review grammar, usage skills and build vocabulary. Major units of study will include grammar, various forms of writing, short story, drama, novel, poetry, and non-fiction.

III. Rules and Consequences:

The rules for the classroom are as follows:

Respect the classroom.

Respect each other.

Respect the teacher.

These rules will be expanded with the students in class. It is important for students to understand the role of respect in the classroom and in real-world situations. These rules will be enforced as follows:

1st offence – verbal warning

2nd offence – detention

3rd offence – referral to the office

It should be understood that some actions do not follow the above course of enforcement. For instance, cursing or swearing will receive an immediate detention (as spelled out in the North Harrison R-III Handbook). Incredibly disruptive behavior may warrant an immediate referral to the office. This will also be explained to the students in class.

It is very important to maintain respect at all times in the English classroom by everyone, including the teacher, students, guests, etc. Students will be giving oral presentations and there will be class discussions, so it is my aim to make sure that all students feel comfortable expressing themselves in a safe environment. The cell phone policy as described in the student handbook will be enforced in my classroom.

IV. Tardies and Absences

Each student is responsible for getting their own assignments when they have been absent. Two days plus the numbers of days missed will be allowed when making up work. If a student has special circumstances they can further discuss with instructor. Failure to do so will result in a zero percent for the missed assignments. After one day late, an assignment will be reduced 30%, and two or more days late an assignment will receive a maximum of 50%. If a student knows they will be gone, it is their responsibility to get their assignments before they leave. Please review the North Harrison R-III School Handbook for further information.

Tardies will be addressed as stated in the student handbook. A tardy will also be given if a student is not prepared for class and/or they have to go to their locker to get something that should have been brought to class (i.e. paper, pencil, homework).

V. Classroom Requirements:

Each student should bring to class EVERYDAY a pencil or pen, textbook, folder/binder, AR book, and any assignments that are being worked on or due.

VI. Grading Procedures:

The grades for this class are weighted as follows:

- 55% - Homework assignments
- 25% - Tests, quizzes, papers, special projects
- 10% - Participation
- 10% - Accelerated Reader

VI. Academic Integrity

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the North Harrison R-III rules for plagiarism as spelled out in the handbook. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit must be the student's own work. You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lecture and the selections with other students. You can give or receive "consulting" help to or from other students, however, this permissible cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else in any form. This includes but is not limited to e-mails, an e-mail attachment file, a diskette, or a hard copy. Should copying occur, both the student who copied the work and the student who shared the material to be copied will both automatically receive a zero for the assignment. During examinations, you must do your own work. Talking or discussion is not permitted during the examinations, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any collaborative behavior during the examinations will result in failure of the exam.