

SYLLABUS

Scholes English Language Arts
2018-2019

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will be learning concepts and skills based on Arizona’s English Language Arts standards. In addition, the middle school grades incorporate Cambridge International standards, which complement and extend the reading, writing, and language content.

A major focus for the year is gaining and practicing strategies in reading and writing. Language concepts (e.g. grammar, punctuation) will also be approached as strategies in the context of writing—not simply as rules, but as tools to shape meaning.

Students can expect to read and write every day in my class! Students will also be required to have an independent reading book each day. Students may choose what to read for their independent reading, including graphic novels, manga, and magazines. I have a classroom library that students can use to check out books, but books from home or public libraries are also great. Students will do various activities based on independent reading, such as completing recommendations, group book talks, and the occasional report.

CLASSROOM LIBRARY

My classroom library has over 800 books! Many of these have been donated by ASU Prep families over the years, some have been purchased with school funds, and others come from Mr. Scholes’ home. The books range from brand new to well-used. Donations are always welcome, and I appreciate students replacing lost or severely damaged books.

READING DEVICE POLICY

Reading devices and audio books are welcome with a few conditions:

- The device must be an e-reader or tablet, *not* a phone or iPod.
- For audiobooks, students must have a copy of the book to follow along (paper or digital).
- Students must take care of downloading material at home.
- The school is not responsible for loss or damage of personal devices.

UNIT TOPICS AND TEXTS

This year, units are designed around topics to foster cross-cultural understanding. Students will engage with texts from a variety of cultures, including groups that are or have been marginalized. Some of the topics are sensitive (e.g. race, class, immigration, genocide), so students are expected to be respectful. We will read the following novels during the year:

American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang
Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds
Seedfolks by Paul Fleischman
Maus: A Survivor’s Tale by Art Spiegelman

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Mr. Justin Scholes
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I encourage parents to preview the books and reach out to me if there are concerns. Below is a summary of my classroom policies regarding the content in whole-class reading and the discussions surrounding our reading:

- Books are chosen for the merit of their content. Because these books deal with significant historical and social issues, there are some instances of objectionable content (e.g. profanity, violence).
- My policy this year is to use the word “blank” in place of profanity when we read aloud in class.
- Parents and students have the final say in what they are comfortable with that individual student reading. I will provide alternate reading options when requested.
- Class discussions are open but respectful. I feel strongly that the classroom is a safe place for students to explore their opinions. As they are young, there are times when students are insensitive or uninformed, and I work carefully to moderate and maintain respectful dialogue.

ASSESSMENTS

Exam	Standards Assessed	Frequency
Class Tests & Quizzes	Arizona state & Cambridge standards	Every 2-3 weeks; end of units
EADMS	Arizona state standards	3-4 times per year
AZMERIT	Arizona state standards	End-of-year
Progression (6 th grade) <i>or</i> Checkpoint (7 th grade)	Cambridge standards	End-of-year

Note: Seventh-graders with qualifying scores on these assessments are eligible to take high school freshman English in the eighth-grade.

ASU PREPARATORY ACADEMY EXPECTATIONS

- Respect yourself
- Respect others
- Respect this place

HOMEWORK

Typically, students will have one homework assignment each week, which will be given on Mondays to be completed by Fridays. Students may also have homework if they did not complete tasks during class time.

*If a student is spending excessive amounts of time trying to complete work at home, please let me know. I strive to give students enough time in class to complete work, and aim for approximately thirty minutes of homework for the week.

LATE WORK AND ABSENCES

All work is expected to be completed and turned in on the due date. Students will receive an equal number of make-up days for excused absences. Teacher discretion will be used according to special education requirements and extenuating circumstances.

For planned absences, please make arrangement with me beforehand for work that will be missed. For all absences, it is students' responsibility to collect missed work.

SHOWING MASTERY

Students who receive less than an 80% on an assignment or assessment will be allowed to re-attempt; this must be done within one week of the task. Mastery tasks that are re-attempted will receive up to 80% credit.

GRADES

97% - 100% = A* (exceeds plus)	80% - 89% = B (meets)	60% - 69% = D (below)
90% - 96% = A (exceeds)	70% - 79% = C (approaches)	below 60% = F (far below)

DISCIPLINE

Misbehavior interrupts students' own potential and disrupts the learning of other students. I use the process below to address inappropriate behaviors:

Offense Level 1 or 2

- 1st instance of the day = warning
- 2nd instance of the day = lunch detention and parent contact*
- 3+ in a day = administration involvement

Offense Level 3 or 4

- Administration involvement
- Police involvement if warranted

*The Parent/Student Handbook outlines offense levels and consequences, including the escalating consequences for continued misbehavior (e.g. multiple days of detention, loss of privileges, in- or out-of-school suspension, expulsion).

6-8 POLICIES

I follow the policies that are set for all 6-8 grade students as outlined in the "6-8 Policies and Procedures" document and copied below:

Technology

1. Cell phones and other personal electronic devices are to be put away upon entering the building in the morning.
2. Students should not pull out their cell phone until they leave the building or gate (walkers) at the end of the school day.
3. Students may not listen to music on personal devices. Personal headphones may only be used when directed by a teacher.
4. If a student fails to be on the approved websites for classwork, s/he will lose technology privileges.

Agenda

1. Students must have their agenda every day. Chronic issues with bringing the agenda may result in a lunch detention.
2. Students are responsible for replacing a lost agenda (available for \$5 in the office).
3. Students should record classwork and homework for each class, each day.
4. Agenda checks will take place in Foundations class.

Bathroom

1. Students must sign out, take a pass, and sign in upon returning.
2. The pass should be placed in the bin provided in the restroom. Please do not fold it. Return the pass when finished.
3. 6-8 grade students must use the designated 6-8 bathrooms next to the front office.

Lunch

1. When inside the building, students must be sitting or walking. No running or playing in the halls or gallery.
2. Students must pick up any garbage in the area after eating.
3. Students must use classroom (indoor) voices.
4. Students must return tables and chairs to their original positions after eating.

Transitions

1. Students should not visit the bathroom during transitions; check-in with your next teacher for permission.
2. Be respectful.
3. No running or playing in the halls or gallery.
4. Be silent when moving through the halls; other classes are in session during transitions.
5. Inappropriate behavior will result in a lunch detention.

Showing Mastery

1. Students who earn less than 80% on a test may re-take to show mastery.
2. Students need to retake the test within one week for core classes.
3. Students may earn up to 80% on the retake.
4. Only tests are eligible for retakes.
5. Students may only do one retake per test.

Late Work

1. Homework and projects are expected to be completed by the due date.
2. Students will receive one day for make-up per day of excused absences.
3. Late work will only be accepted up to one week after the original due date in core classes.
4. Late work will receive up to 80% credit.
5. If work is not completed, the grade will be entered as missing with a score of zero.

Detention

1. Students who receive a line in their agenda for misbehavior will report to Mr. Scholes' room at lunch time for detention. Parents will be notified when students receive detention.
2. Students who receive a line in their agenda for incomplete/missing homework will report to Mrs. Wojtalik's room during lunch to complete the work.
3. Students should be prompt, reporting no later than 11:25. Students will be given time to eat, followed by time to complete work.
4. Failure to report to detention, or reporting late, may result in an added day of detention.

PRIDE (Personal Responsibility in Daily Effort)

Every quarter, there is a reward for students whose behavior, academics, and overall effort reflect the ASU Prep Way. Students must maintain the following each quarter to participate:

1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter
No more than 3 lunch detentions	No more than 2 lunch detentions	No more than 1 lunch detention	No more than 1 lunch detention
No visits to an administrator for misbehavior	No visits to an administrator for misbehavior	No visits to an administrator for misbehavior	No visits to an administrator for misbehavior
No "D" or "F" grades	No "D" or "F" grades	No "D" or "F" grades	No "D" or "F" grades

****Note: All policies are subject to special education accommodations and staff discretion on extenuating circumstances.**