

## Course Syllabus – English Language Arts / Reading (ELAR)

Keefer Crossing Middle School – 2009-2010

Jeanne Johnston, classroom teacher

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Conference Period: 1<sup>st</sup> period 7:20 a.m.-8:12 a.m.

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ELAR Tutorial Schedule:

Wednesday morning -- 6:45 – 7:15

Wednesday afternoon -- 2:30 - 3:00



The curriculum for ELAR is designed to continue students' exposure to a variety of literary texts with adequate understanding and to refine grammar skills and improve writing through the writing process. Course Resources: Curriculum Associates Materials: ACADEMIC WORKOUT and Strategies to Achieve Reading Success (STARS), TAKS release passages and other material necessary for achievement.

Course Objectives are to build students' literacy proficiency in key academic areas, including:

- Reading
- Vocabulary
- Literature
- Writing
- Grammar, usage and mechanics
- Listening and Speaking
- Viewing, Media, and Technology
- Academic and Study Skills

There may be assignments which may require some work outside of class and may include a need to go to the public library, use magazines, newspapers, or craft supplies. If a project is late, or not turned in, parents will be contacted.

### Agendas:

Each student will be given an agenda. They will write down assignments, homework, due dates, or other information given by the teacher. Each student will be required to bring the agenda to class, and will be held accountable for keeping it up to date and filling out the necessary information each day in class.

### Grading Procedure:

NCISD has implemented a new grading policy that must be adhered to by all faculty. This portion is copied directly from the 2009-2010 Student Handbook and NCISD website:

### Reporting Grades

Grading Scale - Letter Grade Numerical Grade Progress

A 90 – 100 Excellent

B 80 – 89 Good

C 75 – 79 Satisfactory / average

D 70 – 74 Minimal

F Below 69 Unsatisfactory

I Incomplete

### Progress Reports

Grades will be communicated to parents at progress report time (half way through each six week grading period). Documentation of parent notification will be maintained when a student's average falls below 70. If a student receives a grade of less than 70 in any class or subject on a progress report, parents are encouraged to contact the appropriate teacher.

### Report Cards

Report cards are sent home at the end of each grading period. If a parent or guardian has a question about the student's grade, please contact the student's teacher by telephone or e-mail. A parent conference may be arranged, if necessary. The weight of the semester exam is 1/7. Semester grades are determined by taking the average of the three grading periods multiplied by two (2), adding the final exam grade and dividing by seven (7).



## Computation of Grades

### Daily Grades

Daily grades will make up 40% of the overall grade.

A minimum of ten (10) daily grades will be taken each grading period.

Electives: A minimum of 6 daily grades.

Daily work is any assignment other than major grades and homework

– e.g., class work, notebooks, quizzes, etc.

### Homework

Homework is an effective tool in developing responsibility, study habits, and skills. It is an extension of the learning process and involves the home in the student's curriculum. It should be purposeful, related to classroom experiences, and be age and grade appropriate. The purpose and directions for the assignment need to be clearly communicated and should be preceded

by instruction that adequately prepares the student to do the task independently and successfully.

Homework will make up 10% of the overall grade.

Electives: Homework will be optional.

*If no homework is given, 10% will be added to the daily grades.*

There must be a minimum of one (1) assignment weekly for each core subject and a maximum of one (1) assignment nightly for Monday – Thursday. Long term or special assignments may be made for weekends as needed.

### Late Homework:

- Category 1

If a student is absent he/she has one (1) day for each day absent to turn in the work for full credit.

- Category 2

7th grade – During first semester, students may turn in late homework for a maximum of a 50. During second semester, NO late homework will be accepted.

8th grade – No late homework will be accepted.

### Major Grades

A minimum of two (2) major tests, projects, presentations will make up 50% of the overall grade.

Accelerated Reading grades should count as one (1) test grade per grading period. Electives: A minimum of 1 major test, project, or presentation.

### Special Programs

Students with individual education plans, enrolled in English as a Second Language, or participating in a gifted or pre-advanced program, will have grades that are reflected in those programs. Students for whom an ARD requires a standard state assessment (TAKS), the only modifications allowed when benchmarking for that assessment will be those allowed by their individual Modification Sheets and also allowed by the state. e.g., – extended time

### Assessments for State Assessments

For assessments that are designed for diagnostic purposes only and used to determine student progress and needs, no grades should be recorded in the grade book.

*Check Point /Benchmark Assessments* are used to determine student mastery of targeted objectives taught during a specific instructional period. Departments will determine how a grade for these benchmarks will be recorded. Although it is the individual department's discretion as to the weight of the grade, no grade should be taken on material not previously taught.

### Cheating / Plagiarism

Cheating shall be defined as giving or receiving information on a test or submitting duplicate work for outside assignments. Using technology (e.g., computer, internet, cell phone, PDA, or calculator) to cheat or copy the work of another is prohibited. The penalty for a student found guilty of cheating is a grade of zero for the test or assignment. Plagiarism consists of using another person's ideas or writing as one's own. Plagiarism is a form of cheating and the penalty shall be a zero on the assignment. Students caught cheating will be referred to their respective assistant principal for disciplinary action.

### Tardy Policy:

Teachers and students will adhere to the tardy policy found in the student handbook

## DRESS CODE

The District's dress code is established to teach grooming and hygiene, instill discipline, prevent disruption, avoid safety hazards, and prepare students for the workforce in the global economy. Students shall be dressed and groomed in a manner that is clean and neat and that will not be a health hazard or safety hazard to themselves or others. The District prohibits any clothing or grooming that in the principal's judgment is not appropriate for school. This list is the minimum requirement for dress regulations, and does not address all possible situations. This list is set as a guideline for the campus dress code policies. Please refer to the campus student handbook for any additional requirements.

### **Student Expectations:**

In addition to all rules and regulations outlined in the student handbook and student code of conduct:

- ◆ **Be courteous.** Display common courtesy and decency toward your classmates, yourself, and me.
- ◆ **Remain alert.** Do not sleep or put your head down on your desk.
- ◆ **Stay seated.** Do not get up to turn in assignments, sharpen pencils, discard refuse, etc. if any other presenter or I am in front of the class speaking or presenting.
- ◆ **Eat breakfast and lunch at home or in the cafeteria.** Food and drink will not be allowed in the classroom.
- ◆ **Do not primp,** check makeup, hair, etc. in my room.
- ◆ **Be respectful.** Students are not to make derogatory or negative comments about any other **teacher** or student.
- ◆ **Work together.** Students are expected to work cooperatively in groups.
- ◆ **Stay at your desk at the end of class UNTIL DISMISSED BY TEACHER,** regardless of the bell.
- ◆ **Clean up around your desk and return things** to their correct place in the room before dismissal.

If a student fails to comply with the above expectations, or breaks any school rule as outlined in the student handbook, the student will be subject to disciplinary action.

- The student will attempt to be in class every day.
- The students will arrive to class on time.
- The students will understand that learning is an ACTIVE process by participating in class discussions.
- The students will attempt to learn and understand material presented to them.
- The student will understand that education is vital.

