

**English Language Arts**  
2020-2021  
 Kat Mancuso  
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High School Phone Number 732-705-5200

### Course Overview

This Language Arts class provides a foundation that not only enables students to grow as individuals but also allows them to contribute effectively within a global community. Students will develop this foundation through reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing.

The purpose of this course is to enhance the students' ability to understand, appreciate, and analyze a variety of literary genres including fiction, non-fiction, drama, poetry, novels, and short stories. The students will further develop their writing and research skills through a variety of writing assignments and research tasks. The students' listening, speaking, and viewing skills will also be enriched.

Essentially, the goal is to provide students with the necessary tools to realize their fullest potential and to enable them to become lifelong learners.

### Course Objectives

By the end of this class, the student will be able to:

- Develop and strengthen comprehension and analyzing skills.
- Read informational texts and literature, including stories, dramas, and poems.
- Develop and strengthen writing skills leading to clear and coherent writing.
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown words.
- Present information clearly.

### Logistics

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Daily Monday-Friday | Assignments will be posted daily in Google Classroom at or before 7am.   |
| Due Dates           | Assignments for each day are due by 7:00 am the next morning, you have 24 hours to complete an assignment before it is considered late.                  |
| Live Classes        | Video conferencing sessions will take place during your assigned class period following the schedule. The link will be posted in Google Classroom.       |
| Extra Help          | The teacher is available for additional help by sending an email to <a href="mailto:kmancuso@marsd.org">kmancuso@marsd.org</a> to set up an appointment. |

### Teacher Bio

Before joining the faculty at Matawan-Aberdeen in 2013 I taught for three years in both public and private schools. I am thrilled to call Matawan-Aberdeen my home. Go Huskies! I am a 2010 graduate from Georgian Court University where I earned a B.A. in English and New Jersey Teaching Certifications (K-12) for English and Students with Disabilities. I also earned my M.A. in Education (concentration: Autism Studies) from Georgian Court in 2016. In my spare time I read, write, kickbox, play the drums, and enjoy life at the Jersey Shore with my husband.

## Course Communication

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Class Announcements          | Posted on Google Classroom as needed   |
| Email/Personal Messages      | When writing a message, please follow the expectations below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Include your name, the class name, and clear subject.</li><li>• Be specific about what you need in your message.</li></ul> <p><u>Note:</u> It may take up to 24 hours to receive a reply during the week and 48 hours on the weekend, so do not wait until the last minute to send a message if you need help.</p> |
| General Assignment Questions | If you have a question about an assignment, I encourage you to post your question in Google Classroom using the “comment” button under the assignment. The comment is visible to the entire class community, so I encourage you to both ask and answer questions there. If a classmate asks a question and you know the answer, please jump in and help them out!  |

## Participation Policy

Students are expected to give forth effort on all assignments and to respond in class in a meaningful way. Students are expected to be active daily in the course by completing and turning in the assignments found in Google Classroom as well as participating in live Google Meet sessions. This includes participating in Google Meet classes with the student’s camera and microphone on (preferably).

## Required Texts, Materials, and Online Accounts

Everything the student needs will be provided via Google Classroom in a digital format. All login information will be posted in Google classroom.

Platforms regularly used in this course will be:

- Newsela
- Flipgrid
- LearningAlly
- Peardeck
- Quill

## Student Code of Conduct

Online as well as in the classroom students are expected to behave respectfully, this includes but is not limited to using appropriate language, replying to others in a kind way, and respecting opinions of others.

 **Schedule**

| Day of Week | Skills Focus   |
|-------------|--|
| Monday      | Language skills, unknown words, vocabulary, figurative language, grammar |
| Tuesday     | Reading skills, informational or literature                              |
| Wednesday   | Reading skills, informational or literature                              |
| Thursday    | Writing skills   |
| Friday      | Presentation skills  |

**Online Learning Schedule**

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday  | Thursday | Friday |
|--------|---------|------------|----------|--------|
| Day 1  | Day 2   | Virtual-AM | Day 1    | Day 2  |

Day 1: Google Meet sessions with Periods 1, 2, 3, 4  
 Day 2: Google Meet sessions with Periods 5, 6, 7, 8

- First session: 12:25-12:45
- Second session: 12:50-1:10
- Third session: 1:15-1:35
- Fourth session: 1:40-2:00

 **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is in accordance to the [MRHS Student Handbook](#), page 15  
 To receive full credit for a high school course, a student is limited to 10 unexcused absences or 20 total (excused and unexcused) absences. (The limits for semester courses shall be 5 unexcused or 10 total absences.)  
 Attendance will be required for Google Meets: Students who are struggling with virtual attendance should contact the school personnel in the order below:

- Classroom Teacher
- School Counselor/Case Manager
- Grade-Level Administrator
  - 9th & 10th Grade: Mr. Frank Liotti

## Grading Policy

Tests, Projects, Writing Assignments 40%

Quizzes 20%

Homework 15%

Classwork, Participation 25%

- Grades will appear numerically in gradebook.
- Written assignments and projects may have rubrics as needed for grading, they will always be attached to the individual assignment.
- Some assignments, such as homework and participation may be graded as a check, check plus or check minus depending on level of completion/participation.. The mark will translate into a numerical value
- Late work is accepted until one week before the end of the marking period for partial credit.
- Students can request to revise an assignment for a higher grade within a week of the assignment being returned to the student, certain assignments, such as assessments, revision is not possible.
- Accommodations and modifications will be provided in accordance with the individual students' 504 or Individualized Educational Plan (IEP).

## What if?

- **I can't find today's assignment on Google Classroom.**
  - Wait until 7:30, sometimes Google does not post on time.
  - Look for the skill that we normally study that day.
  - Look for an assignment with the day's date that may be under the wrong topic.
  - Email [Mrs. Mancuso](mailto:Mrs.Mancuso)
- **I can't login to a platform such as Newsela or Peardeck.**
  - Log out of everything, even the computer.
  - Log in slowly, carefully using your school email, the one ending in @marsd.org
  - Login to the platform using your school Gmail clicking on the Gmail logo
  - Email [Mrs. Mancuso](mailto:Mrs.Mancuso) for help
- **I have no power or internet at home (short-term)**
  - Don't panic, you will get an extension on assignment(s).
  - At some point, even when you get power back email [Mrs. Mancuso](mailto:Mrs.Mancuso) to explain when you lost the power/internet went off and when it came back.
- **I need a computer or wifi from the school (long-term)**
  - Please email [mrhsinfo@marsd.org](mailto:mrhsinfo@marsd.org) or call (732)705-5348 to set up an appointment to pick them up.
- **I earned a bad grade on an assignment and I'm upset.**
  - Don't be upset. Let's get better at that skill.
  - Email [Mrs. Mancuso](mailto:Mrs.Mancuso) to setup re-doing the assignment if possible.
- **I need help with an assignment.**
  - Ask for help during the next Google Meet
  - email [Mrs. Mancuso](mailto:Mrs.Mancuso)
- **I don't get an email right back from Mrs. Mancuso about a class question.**
  - Give it 24-48 hours, if school is closed for a holiday, wait until school begins again.