

READ 180/Language Arts Syllabus (2008-2009)

Mrs. Hermansen

Phone: 247-5929 (to leave message)
schoolnotes.com (to send email)

Class Objective: The primary objective of this course is to help students improve their reading strategies and skills so that they will be successful in their content area classes and gain confidence through improved reading skills. Additionally, your student will receive a Language Arts grade from this class which encompasses two grades on the final report card.

Standards Addressed: We use the current Sunshine State Standards which are available on the www.duvalschools.org website which you may access at your convenience. Our primary standards this year include: Comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, 25-book standard, fluency, and writing.

Assessment: Students will be evaluated on several measures throughout the year.

Testing/Objective Assessments: Fluency, SRI (lexile), DCPS Benchmark testing, rBook Testing, and Authentic Projects. These tests are measured by averages and the grades will break down as follows:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	59% and below

Class Work: The students are expected to participate in a rotational model. This model is represented in 5 parts and warm-up/exiting the classroom:

Warm Up	Bell Ringer
1	<u>Whole Group:</u> rBook
2-4	<u>Rotations:</u> • Small Group (rBook, Differentiated Instruction) • Computer (Read 180) • Intensive Reading (Reading Counts Quizzes, Book Logs and Projects)
5	<u>Closure/Cleanup</u>
End of Class	Exit Slips

Because much of the work is at grade level, it is most important that the student participates in a positive manner. Students may put forth admirable effort and yet not attain passing grades at grade level. This

works as an equalizer to avoid failure for hardworking students. Grades for class work include effort and improvement:

S	Satisfactory	90%
N	Needs Improvement	70%
U	Unsatisfactory	50%

Grading Breakdown: The final grade in the class is a combination of the following activities. Please remember that the weighting of activities will affect the final average. If you have questions, please contact me with questions.

Computers Read 180:	30%
Whole Group/Small Group:	30%
Independent Reading:	30%
Testing:	10%
Participation:	5% (Participation includes making gains in testing, making extra effort in class and attitude. This is a reward system, not a punishment grade; therefore, students who are not participating in a positive manner will simply not receive extra points.)

Tardies/Absences: Attendance will be taken during every period. Tardies will be marked on the attendance sheet and will be handled through the dean's office. Students attend lunch during class and will be escorted to and from the cafeteria by me. If they are separated from the group for an unacceptable reason, it will be possible for that student to receive a tardy at that point, too. If your student has an excused absence, please send a note to school including your student's full name and reason for absence. If you don't, the absence will be counted as "unexcused" and may result in additional measures if the unexcused absences are excessive.

Code of Conduct: Because the READ 180 students use the computers extensively, they will be strictly monitored as to appropriate use of technology. A student who wanders off of the Read 180 site will be subject to several computer code infractions usually resulting in a 3-5 suspension and a complete disconnection for all services of DCPS excluding Read 180.

Your student has received a copy of the ***Student Code of Conduct*** and it is available on www.duvalschools.org if you need additional information.

Reading is a significant life skill that all people need. My goal in this class is to prepare your student to be successful as he/she passes through the educational system and into a professional life that will be successful and productive. Any behavior or other issue that disrupts the normal classroom procedures will be dealt with. Often students have so many outside influences that it overlaps into the classroom. The student, parent and teacher are an important team in a child's success. Please let me know, at any time, if you need help, have questions/concerns, or just need to discuss your student's progress in my class.

Every Child is a Story Yet to be Told!