

Pine Valley Middle School – School Year 2009 – 2010

Maria Ciriaco's Grade 7 Course Description and Policies and Guidelines

Maria Ciriaco, 7th Grade CORE (English/Language Arts & World History), Room #A105
Phone 925-479-7748 (Classroom and Voice Mail), Email: mciriac@srvusd.net * Preferred *

English 7 – Major Course Description – English/Language Arts is literature-based; complemented with the district's writing program marries state standards in a natural way for students to develop reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical thinking skills.

Books/Workbooks used: Prentice Hall Literature, Everyday Spelling & Vocabulary, Grammar; required CORE Novels: *Chinese Cinderella* and *Walk Two Moons*; and supplemental mentored texts (including published adolescent work), etc. are covered. **Also, daily recreational and assigned reading is required. Students will submit a Reading log (signed by a parent/guardian/or care-giver) each quarter for a grade.**

Writing – Students maintain a writing notebook to write daily and record mini-lessons and reflections in the following types of writing: Personal Narrative, Personal Essay, Persuasive Writing, Response to Literature, Research Paper, and Summary Writing.

World History – World History is a yearlong course giving the student knowledge of world cultures and historical events from the Fall of Rome to the Age of Enlightenment. The elements that contribute to the evolution and development of a culture are examined and analyzed.

Policies and Guidelines

Classroom Expectations (Rules) – 1. Respect self, others, our school, and personal property. Be safe and use common sense. **Make wise choices and think before you act!!!** 2. Be prepared. Come to class everyday with required materials and completed assignments. **3. Bring your best effort to everything that you do!!!**

Homework Policy – Reading 10 minutes and writing 10 minutes daily ***is required and strongly recommended*** on weekends and holidays. Daily practice in skills development, chapter or unit quiz and test of key concepts, management of assigned long-term projects is also suggested. ***Two major English/Language Arts projects*** and ***one major World History project*** per quarter will be assigned as an extension and enrichment of key concepts learned. ***Assignments and projects must be submitted on time; no credit will be given for late work.***

School Loop – Assignments are published same day (latest) or one week prior to due date (earliest). Long-term projects are published two weeks to one month prior to due date with checkpoints for teacher approval, creation of student plan (to complete project), and necessary drafts to guarantee student completion and success. **Grades are published every five (5) assignments.** Parents are encouraged to register for School Loop to monitor student progress. Parents who do not have access to a computer (and/or internet) can contact me for grade printouts during progress report and end of the quarter reporting periods.

Make-up Work – Absences do not excuse a student from class work or homework. A student has three (3) days to make up work from the day of the last absence. **Work assigned before an absence is due on the day the student returns to school. *Planned absences of five (5) consecutive days require an independent study contract with work due on the date of return (see Mrs. Arieta at the Main Office).***

Tardy Policy – Students are required to be in their seat **before** the tardy bell rings or they are marked tardy. 1st tardy: warning, 2nd tardy: loss of break time (4 minutes), 3rd tardy: phone call to parent and in-class 15 minute lunch detention, 4th tardy – referral to Administrator (Office)

Required Materials – Students are expected to keep and maintain the following materials brought to class everyday:

1. Binder Reminder
2. SSR Book
3. English spiral notebook (strong metal preferred w/hard plastic covers, college rule (25x35 cm)
4. Writing notebook (composition)
5. Pens (blue, black, and red)
6. Loose binder paper (college rule)
7. CORE Two pocket folder (not needed if available in English spiral notebook)

Notebooks are checked periodically and contribute significant points in student's quarter grades. They are also utilized as note-taking tools to use for study practice and quiz/test review. Save everything neatly and in the right place (CORE Two pocket folder is used as a management tool).

Binder Reminder – The use of a **Pine Valley Binder Reminder is also required.** The Binder Reminder is a place for students to record all assignments in all classes. It provides one resource for parents to check daily homework. The Binder Reminder will be reviewed quarterly.

Assessment and Grading – Each student is graded on the following: daily participation (50 points per quarter), class work, homework, projects, writing (planning, drafts, published paper), notebook checks, oral presentations (speech), quizzes, tests. Percentage grades are as follows:

- 96.5% - 100% = A+
- 92.5% - 96% = A
- 89.5% - 92% = A-
- 86.5% - 89% = B+
- 82.5% - 86% = B
- 79.5% - 82% = B-
- 76.5% - 79% = C+
- 72.5% - 76% = C
- 69.5% - 72% = C-
- 66.5% - 69% = D+
- 62.5% - 66% = D
- 59.5% - 62% = D-
- 59% or below =F

Please complete and return:

Printed student name _____ Class Period: _____

Date _____

“ I have read and understand Ms. Ciriaco’s Grade 7 CORE Description and Policies and Guidelines.”

Student signature _____

Parent/Guardian/Care-giver signature _____

Printed name (if different from student name) _____