

**Communication Arts II
Joplin High School
Syllabus and Expectations.**

Course Description:

Communication Arts II is a comprehensive communication arts class designed to help students develop communication skills needed for success in the classroom and beyond. The students will encounter non-fiction, short stories, novels, poetry, and drama from all genres, cultures, and eras found in literature.

Instructional Philosophy:

Since students learn in a variety of ways and have different preferences regarding activities, this course will include a combination of approaches. Students will have access to technology; our classrooms are equipped with SmartBoards, and our students will be allowed to checkout I-Books or handhelds for classroom use when appropriate. Students will work in many combinations, including whole group, small groups, pairs, or individually. Because students frequently need reinforcement and guidance, most work will be done during class time, but students may have homework occasionally. Major projects or independent reading may also require time outside of class. Makeup work is expected to be done outside of class, as well.

Major Course Goals:

1. Students will speak and write standard English.
2. Students will read and evaluate fiction, poetry, and drama.
3. Students will read and evaluate nonfiction works and materials.
4. Students will write formally and informally.
5. Students will comprehend and evaluate the content and artistic aspects of oral and visual presentations.
6. Students will participate in formal and informal presentations and discussions of ideas and issues.
7. Students will identify and evaluate relationships between language and culture.

Major Course Objectives:

1st Semester Novel Selection-will vary by teacher

1. Fiction and Nonfiction
 - Making Predictions
 - Cause and Effect
2. Short Stories
 - Making Inferences
 - Drawing Conclusions
3. Types of Nonfiction: Essays, Articles and Speeches
 - Main Idea and Supporting Details
 - Evaluating Persuasive Appeals
4. Writing—Six Trait Model as applied to narrative, expository and persuasive writing.
5. Basic Mechanics and Grammar

2nd Semester Novel Selection-will vary by teacher

1. Poetry
 - Reading Fluently
 - Paraphrasing
2. Drama
 - Summarizing
 - Reading Shakespeare
3. Themes in Literature
 - Cultural Context
 - Compare and Contrast Worldviews
4. Writing—Descriptive, expository, literary response, research writing and writing for assessment

Major Course Projects, Instructional Activities, and Course Assessments:

1. Bell work, daily work and silent reading—Each day students will have a variety of these activities which will vary by teacher.
2. Individual and group activities which will vary based on unit of study
3. Formal tests/assessments—Students will take the accompanying test upon the completion of each unit.
4. Formal writing—Students will complete a variety of formal writing assessments which will vary by teacher and unit of study.
5. Projects and presentations—Students will be expected to complete a variety of major projects and presentations throughout the year.
6. Semester finals—All students who do not have quality attendance will take comprehensive semester finals.

Participation and attendance:

High school is intended to be a preparatory experience for college and/or the work force. It is important to develop good attendance habits in order to be successful in those arenas. Additionally most course activities will be completed in class and therefore difficult to make up. Students are expected to be in the classroom and prepared to work when the tardy bell rings. If tardy, students will surrender their tardy card or expect a referral per the JHS Student Handbook. **All policies regarding attendance, make-up work and tardies from the JHS Student Handbook and the Communication Arts Attendance Policy will be followed.**

Classroom Expectations:

Rules:

1. Respect yourself.
(In other words...be on time, be prepared, bring needed materials, do your best, dress appropriately, be honest and take responsibility.)
2. Respect others.
(In other words...raise your hand, listen when others are speaking, stay seated during the lessons, keep your hands to yourself and speak respectfully.)
3. Respect property.
(In other words...leave other students' materials alone, respect the room)

décor and furniture, stay away from my desk and personal possessions.)

Hall Passes:

Students sometimes need to leave the room for various reasons, including using the restroom, getting a drink, or visiting the nurse. Generally, students will be allowed to use the restroom or get a drink at the water fountain at convenient times. Students should expect to use **their** hall pass any time they wish to leave the room.

Late work/Make-up work:

When students miss class it is their responsibility to find out what work they missed. Deadlines for make-up work will be at each teacher's discretion. Late work acceptance will be at each teacher's discretion per the **JHS Student Handbook** and the **Communication Arts Policy**. It is the student's responsibility to take care of make-up work by meeting with his/her teacher. Make-up and late work deadlines may vary based on the school calendar and assignment objectives.

Food and Drinks:

Food and drink privileges may vary per teacher, but the JHS Student Handbook allows food and drink only in the cafeteria.

Electronic Devices:

No electronic devices per the JHS Student Handbook.

Grading Scale:

90-100% of points possible	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59-0%	F

Tutoring/Extra Help:

Teachers will be available as possible for student help, but each student must make arrangements. The JHS Communication Arts Department has a variety of tutoring sessions available, ask your teacher for times/locations.

Teacher contact:

The most effective way to contact a teacher is via school email or a telephone message at the high school.

This syllabus is subject to change should the nature of the classroom require it.

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Class/Group name: SloanCAII

Class access code: E5D8238FE03FB4EA4A84

When you enroll or register, type the access code exactly as shown above.
Use all uppercase letters, and include dashes.

Student Name: _____

User Name: _____