



# Deer Valley Unified School District

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**English Language Arts 3-4 Honors**

Room: C208

Mrs. Renee Spitler  
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**Course Description:** This course is a thematic approach to both classical and modern world literature. By incorporating both perspectives, students will not only develop an understanding of the individual within the world, but will also explore relevant, contemporary thematic links. Throughout the course, students will be provided with a myriad of opportunities to understand, evaluate, and clearly communicate ideas through reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This course offers expanded opportunities to use 21<sup>st</sup> century skills to enhance the learning experience and enhance course themes. This course is aligned with district and Arizona College and Career Ready Standards and supports the school wide efforts in increasing student achievement.

**Course Objectives:** By the time the student completes this course of study, the student will know or be able to:

- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; identify false statements and fallacious reasoning.
- Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
- Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions.

**Grading:** Grades are based on a percentage of all possible points (100%-90%=A, 89%-80%=B, 79%-70%=C, 69%-60%=D, 59% and lower=F).

- Grades are cumulative for the semester. The first and second semester grades will be weighted as follows: 35% writing & language, 30% reading, 15% speaking & listening, and 20% final exam.
- No extra credit will be accepted.

**Report Cards:** In an effort to conserve resources and harness the capacity of our electronic grade reporting program (PowerSchool) district schools will no longer print hard copies of report cards unless requested by individual parents. To request a hard copy of your student's report card, please contact the front office at 623-376-3000. To receive your PowerSchool login, please stop into the office with a valid photo ID.

**Power School Online Access:** Grades and attendance may be accessed 24 hours a day online with your Power School access code. Access codes are available in the Counseling Office or Front Desk Monday – Friday 7:00 AM– 3:30 PM. You may check student progress regularly on the PowerSchool site using the same login for one or more students. For Mountain Ridge parents/guardians without home computer access, a computer with guest log-in capability is available in the Counseling Conference Room.

**Academic Assistance/Office Hours:** In addition to the Academic Prep times built into our schedule each week, additional assistance/tutoring is provided on a weekly basis both by MRHS and individually by instructors. These office hours will be posted in the classroom.

**Technology: Daily Device Use (iPads and cellular phones):** Students should come to school with their iPads charged and ready to use in each class every day. Devices may not be used to record or take photos of other people without their consent. Consequences for classroom disruptions and misuse of devices will follow a progressive discipline model, beginning with a phone call home and progressing to office referrals for repeated or more serious offenses.

**Academic Integrity:** As stated in the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards, students need to be college and career ready when graduating high school. To meet this standard, students will be expected to accurately and consistently cite all sources used in their work and to submit designated assignments to turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection service. If it is determined that student work is plagiarized, appropriate consequences will be enforced per school policy.

Absences: After an absence, it is THE STUDENT's responsibility to determine what makeup work is needed. A student has one school day for each day missed to make up work/schedule makeup tests, regardless of the number of days absent. If many days were missed, please schedule an appointment with me to formulate a plan for the completion of make-up work. Make-up work for extended absences (over 3 days) may be requested through the Counseling Office and picked up there.

Long-term projects are due on the published due date even if the student is absent.

Retake Policy: The MRHS English Language Arts Department does not offer retakes on any quizzes, tests or exams. However, teacher-selected opportunities for composition revisions and rewrites will be made available.

Assignment and Canvas/Turnitin.com Policy:

1. Any assignment, test or quiz with no name indicated will be placed into the "no name" folder. After a period of one week, your work will be discarded. Please be dutiful and ensure all your work is recorded!
2. Most assignments will be submitted electronically through Canvas or Turnitin.com. For major papers, which are considered long-term assignments, late submissions will receive a 20% reduction per school day for every day the paper remains un-submitted; other long-term assignments not submitted on the due date may receive a zero or reduced scores at the instructor's discretion. Late assignments that are not long-term and do not follow the absence guidelines will not be accepted at all. In the case of computer or app failure, you have two options: either call your instructor's voice mail before the due date and leave a message detailing the situation, or email the assignment directly to the instructor (also prior to the due date). Anything submitted after the due date will be considered late.

Classroom Rules and Consequences:

- *Be here*—in class, on time. Be fully present not only physically, but *mentally* too. Give 100% attention & effort every time. It makes a difference.
- *Be prepared*- with materials you may need, and homework assignments complete. Due dates are non-negotiable.
- *Be respectful of all* people, property and points of view. **Please remember that such respect includes use of technology and that of electronic devices is limited to teacher approved times. Electronics used outside of approved times will be confiscated.** Self-control and respect are a sign of maturity.
- *Be yourself!* You have something important to contribute, both in and out of our classroom.

Examples of Negative Consequences: (1) Verbal warning, (2) Removal from class, (3) Parent Contact, (4) Seating Change, (5) Referral, (6) Removal by security staff

Recommended Supplies for this Course:

1. Blue or black pen and pencils
  2. Highlighters in at least 2 different colors
  3. Loose-leaf college-ruled paper and space in your 3-ring binder for English
  4. Sticky notes
  5. iPad: fully charged
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**English Language Arts 3-4H, 2018-2019  
Syllabus Agreement Form  
Instructor: Spitler, Renee**

Please read the syllabus for this course which can be accessed at: <https://www.dvusd.org/Domain/2899> . Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the instructor directly at [renee.spitler@dvusd.org](mailto:renee.spitler@dvusd.org).

I have read and understand all of the guidelines set forth in the syllabus for this class.

Student Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period #: \_\_\_\_\_ **Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## ELA 3-4H Video Consent Form

Often times video can be an excellent way to augment our students' education, helping to reinforce curricular ideas as well as create excellent discussions about how contemporary society views our subject matter. In ELA 3-4 we will be viewing the listed segments below. Should you prefer that your student participate in an alternative assignment, please contact me via phone, email, or leave a note on this video permission form and have your student turn it in to me.

video clips from <i>Macbeth (unrated; 2009 PBS Great Performances)</i>
video clips from <i>Wuthering Heights (PG)</i>
video clips from <i>Beowulf (PG13)</i>
video clips from <i>Brave New World (unrated; 1998 made-for-television)</i>
Additional appropriately rated ancillary television and YouTube clips may also be utilized in class.



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**VIDEO PROCEDURES AND CLEARANCE FORM**  
Grades 8-12

Videos, films and other taped materials rated PG/PG13 (parental guidance) may be viewed at school, but they must be:

- an integral part of the class curriculum.
- approved by your administrator prior to viewing.
- approved by parent/guardian.
- each student must have a signed "Student Video Parent/Guardian Permission Form" on file, noting permission for each PG or PG13 video.

\_\_\_\_\_ has my permission to view **[see above for list]** \_\_\_\_\_,  
**(Please Print) Student's Name** Name of Video/Taped Material

**[See above for ratings]**, on **[During the 2018-2019 School Year]** per the above mentioned guidelines.  
PG, PG13 (Date(s))

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent's/Guardian's Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

