



# Deer Valley Unified School District

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**English Language Arts 3-4**  
**Mrs. Renee Spitler**  
**Renee.spitler@dvusd.org**  
**Room C208**

**623-376-3208**

<https://www.dvusd.org/Domain/2899>

**Ms. Julie Bowlby**                      **Per. 4**  
**Julie.bowlby@dvusd.org**  
**English Language Arts 3-4 Team-Taught**

**Mrs. Debra Payne**                      **Per. 7**  
**Debra.payne@dvusd.org**  
**English Language Arts 3-4**

**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 Arizona English Language Arts Standards and supports school-wide efforts to increase student achievement.

**Course Objectives:** By the time the student completes this course of study, the student will 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.
- Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.
- Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

**Novels/Plays Being Read and Discussed in Class:**

- *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom
- *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
- *The Tragedy of Macbeth* by William Shakespeare

**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 and language, 30% reading, 15% speaking and listening, and 20% final exams.
- Per district policy, there are no opportunities for extra credit.

**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.

**PowerSchool Online Access:** Grades and attendance may be accessed 24 hours a day online with your PowerSchool access code. Access codes are available in the Administration office Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. You must provide picture ID to be issued a code. 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 login 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. Those dates and times are posted on my website.

**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. See the Student Rights and Responsibilities consequence chart in the handbook for more specific descriptions of infractions and consequences.

**Academic Integrity:** As stated in the Arizona English Language Arts 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.

**Makeup Work and Long-Term Project Policies:** 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/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.

**Course Rules:** I have the following expectations of my students:

1. **Be respectful.** Treat everyone with consideration in your language and actions. Do not speak while another person is speaking. Keep your desk and the classroom neat and clean. Respect our time together and do your personal business on your personal time.
2. **Be responsible.** Arrive to class on time with all necessary materials. Start work without prompting each day. Complete assignments on time, ask questions for clarity, and stay aware of deadlines.
3. **Be involved.** You are in charge of your own learning. Be an active and thoughtful participant so that your learning experience is meaningful and memorable. Take part in discussion. Stay on task. Keep your head up. Do your homework. Use class time efficiently.

**Disciplinary Consequences:** If you are unable to abide by the course rules, your consequences will follow suit in a succeeding manner (verbal warning, conference/detention with teacher + parent email and/or phone call, administrative referral + parent email and/or phone call). Major violations will warrant an immediate referral.

**Recommended Supplies for This Course:**

- Pens with dark ink
- Pencils
- Highlighters in multiple colors
- A college ruled notebook
- Loose-leaf college ruled paper

## English Language Arts 3-4 Renee Spitler

Please read the syllabus for this course, which can be accessed at: <https://www.dvusd.org/Domain/2899>

I have read and understand all of the guidelines set forth in the syllabus for this class. I have also reviewed the novels/plays that will be read and discussed in this class and have no concerns at this time.

Student Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Period #: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### English Language Arts 3-4 Video Consent Form

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

<b>Mrs. Renee Spitler</b> <b>623-376-3208</b> <b>Renee.spitler@dvusd.org</b>	
<b>Fall Semester</b>	<b>Spring Semester</b>
<i>Lord of the Flies</i> (NR) – excerpts only	<i>Tuesdays with Morrie</i> (NR) – excerpts only
<i>The Tragedy of Macbeth</i> – PBS dist. (PG)	<i>Human Movie series</i> (YouTube)
Additional appropriately rated ancillary television and YouTube clips may also be utilized in class.	



Deer Valley Unified School District No. 97

#### 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 PG-13 video.

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

on **[during the 2019-2020 school year]** per the above mentioned guidelines.  
 (Date(s))

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

