

Indian Mound Middle School

6330 Exchange Street, McFarland, WI 53558

Phone: 608.838.8980 Fax: 608.838.4588 Website: www.mcfarland.k12.wi.us

Welcome to 7th Grade ELA! I am Tracy Ndlovu. As part of the SPIRIT team, I will help students be mindful of their ability to grow now and into their futures. I am dedicated to sharing my passion for reading and writing to foster my students' progress and enjoyment in these areas. I look forward to each person's unique strengths enriching the learning community for this class.

Our Philosophy

Ms. Meyer and I, along with our co-teachers, ascribe to the belief that to become better readers and writers, students should have time to practice reading and writing. We aim to highlight and encourage daily time for reading, as well as discussing and writing about what we're reading in class. Sharing the ideas that are hatched from what we read leads to greater literacy and kindles excitement about new books. Another goal is to help students navigate the many ways we write to match the purposes for expressing our ideas, so we will strive to be authentic and real-world ready in our projects. Through reading, writing, speaking and listening, we hope to develop communities that are collaborative and reflective, inspiring a better understanding of the world and ourselves.

Language Arts Course Description

IMMS Language Arts seeks to continue the progress made by students using authentic practice and implementation in these core areas of literacy: reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical thinking. Students will demonstrate their growth, understanding of the process and create products in the following areas:

- **Independent Reading**
Students will be expected to independently read 30 minutes every night--approximately 200 pages per week. Students need to read outside of school to make their goal. We also will consistently provide reading time in class to build literacy skills and receive support.
- **Reading Units**
Students will have a variety of choices in multiple thematic book group units throughout the year. In these units, students will practice reading strategies to gain a deeper understanding of elements within a text. In each unit, students will work collaboratively with their peers applying skills they've learned through conferences or mini-lessons. Each thematic unit has essential questions that will guide the students' reading and discussions.
- **Writing Workshop**
Writing Workshop Units of Study follow our philosophy, in that more practice doing strategies leads to greater skill level. Students will write in different genres throughout the year with time provided to write, rewrite, confer with teachers and to practice skills taught in mini-lessons. With a focus on purpose and audience, students will create writing that will show growth and flexibility, as well as their understanding of the writing process in these genres.

Mr. Aaron Tarnutzer
Principal

Mr. Brett Jondle
Associate Principal

Ms. Jill Runde
Guidance Counselor

McFarland School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, or handicap in its education programs or in employment

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Please Be Prepared. Items that students will need to bring to class on a daily basis:

1. Book or articles to read during independent reading time
2. Writing utensil
3. Language Arts Folder or Binder
4. A notebook and loose-leaf paper
5. Fully charged Chromebook (earbuds or headphones need to be available)

Grading Procedures:

7th grade ELA teachers will provide rubrics that show how students can meet seventh-grade standards; each employs a scale for skill work in reading, writing, speaking/listening. The scales reflect these levels of progress:

| | | |
|---|-----------|---|
| Extending the standard | <i>ES</i> | <i>My performance extends the standard at this time. I consistently and independently apply and/or extend a thorough understanding of the concept or skill being assessed.</i> |
| Meeting the standard | <i>ME</i> | <i>My performance meets the standard at this time. I consistently and independently demonstrate an understanding of the concept or skill being assessed.</i> |
| Approaching the standard | <i>AP</i> | <i>My performance is approaching standard at this time. I demonstrate a basic understanding of the concept or skill being assessed. I may need more time to practice before becoming independent.</i> |
| Significantly below the standard | <i>SB</i> | <i>My performance is significantly below standard at this time. I demonstrate a limited understanding of the concept or skill being assessed. I need more time and support before becoming independent in demonstrating an understanding that is needed to meet the grade level standard.</i> |
| Not enough evidence | <i>NE</i> | <i>I have not yet provided enough evidence of understanding at this time.</i> |
| Not assessed | <i>NA</i> | <i>Not assessed at this time.</i> |

Conduct:

Students will be expected to follow the guidelines in the “We A.R.R.E. Spartans” rubric.

Late work:

Students will be given practice opportunities to learn new skills and check-ins with feedback to achieve the goals of class. Timeliness is encouraged. Setting goals to meet deadlines also will be practiced. Due dates will be revised/extended when students need extra time to accomplish assigned tasks. Significant delays might result in requests for students to schedule additional work time and/or affect a student’s conduct and effort marks.

How to Contact Me

You can contact me using email; my address is ndlovut@mcfds.org. You also may call IMMS at (608) 838-4500 ext. 4855.

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