

Ms. Joslin's Syllabus 2007-2008
Seventh Grade Language Arts and Social Studies

1) Language Arts Objectives:

- a. Students will use **Reciprocal Teaching*** to deepen their understanding of novels and non-fiction text.
- b. Students will study vocabulary weekly to increase their written and verbal language skills.
- c. Students will read silently at home and at school every day to increase their reading interest and skill. (Students will track this on a reading log).
- d. Novels that we read in class will focus on the same part of the world we are studying in social studies.
- e. Students will use graphic organizers and strategies to improve their writing skills.
- f. Students will learn strategies to help them meet or exceed standards in class, and on state/district tests.

***Reciprocal Teaching** is a method for structuring small group discussions about reading. Research has shown that Reciprocal Teaching increases student's understanding of what they read.

2) Geography Objectives:

- a. Students will use hands-on projects to explore the five themes of geography, (location, place, human/environment interaction, movement, and region).
- b. Students will use novels and non-fiction (textbooks, articles) to explore the five themes of geography.

Ms. Joslin's Class Supply List

Bring Daily:

1. Two sharpened pencils (sharpen before class or at a break).
2. Two spiral notebooks to leave in class, (one for Language Arts, one for Social Studies).
3. A silent reading book, (you will be completing reading logs for a silent reading grade).
4. Planner (you will write all of your assignments in your planner, and you need it to use the restroom).



Ms. Joslin's Class Procedures

Entering the classroom:



- You will enter class **quietly** and take care of **sharpening your pencils**.
- You will **immediately** begin working on the Do Now, which will be posted on the overhead.

Attention:



- When I need your attention I will raise my **hand** in the air and ring a **bell**.
- You will stop what you are doing, look at me, and silently wait for instructions.

Restroom:



- You may not use the restroom during the first **20 minutes** or the last **20 minutes of class**.
- You need to have your own planner to use the restroom.
- **Do not** interrupt me while I am teaching to ask to use the bathroom.
- **Wait** until everyone is working and raise your hand.
- Write down what time you left on the white board. If you are gone more than three minutes you will make up the rest of the time at lunch.

Absences:



- If you are absent a packet of work will be put in the **absent folder** for you.
- You will only have as many days to make up the work, as you were absent. (*Example:* You miss Monday, your work will be due on Wednesday).

Ms. Joslin's Classroom Rules

1. Be in your seat and working when the bell rings.
2. Listen to directions the first time.
3. Use respectful language (no put-downs, or swearing).
4. Respect people's space and belongings (if it isn't yours leave it alone).
5. Ask permission to leave your seat.
6. No food or drinks allowed (except water).

Consequences

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. <i>Name on the board</i> - | Warning. |
| 2. <i>One check</i> - | 10 minutes lunchtime detention with me. |
| 3. <i>Two checks</i> - | Lunch detention |
| 4. <i>Three checks</i> - | Processed to another room, contact parents. |

*Any serious infraction, (fighting), **immediate** referral to the office, parents contacted.

Incentives

1. Praise (verbal or notes home).
2. Weekly raffle. (Raffle tickets for good behavior).
3. Computer time (10 minutes after work is complete).

With these simple expectations we will have a fun and safe environment to learn and grow.

Grading:

We grade using a standards-based grading.

Exceeding 92-100%

Meeting 82-91%

Approaching 72-81%

Beginning 71-Below%

Homework:

Homework is considered practice. Daily homework will be graded as finished or not finished. Students do not typically have a lot of daily homework for this class. They do have silent reading to do every night, and a geography project due every other month.

Contact:

The best time to contact me is during my planning hour from 9:00-10:00am. You can either call (253) 945-4900, or e-mail me at kjoslin@fwps.org. Email is the quickest way to get in touch with me.