

**Common Language Arts Information:**

To earn a high school diploma, students are required to earn four credits of Language Arts. This is the equivalent of two terms of Language Arts every year, with the exception of WR 121 and WR 122 in which a student can potentially earn a full credit per term if college credit is earned. Please see the “Retaking Course/Summer School Policy” for clarification on what happens if a student fails one or more terms of a Language Arts course.

All freshmen take Language Arts 1, and all sophomores take Language Arts 2 (if the teacher/student/parent feels like that is not an appropriate placement for the student, movement to a higher level will be made on an individual basis). Juniors and Seniors have options of which courses they want to take to finish their remaining two credits, and will request their preferred classes during forecasting in the spring. Honors credit options include: Honors Language Arts 4, WR 121, and WR 122.

**Course Content:**

Language Arts 1, 2, 3, 4, and Honors 4:

All Language Arts courses are designed around the Language Arts Common Core Standards and the curriculum is created in a way that aids in a student’s ability to engage in and successfully meet those standards. If there is content that you feel is not appropriate for your student, alternative assessments will be provided.

\* All selective courses will have permission slips that must be signed by a parent or guardian before the course can be taken

**Grading:**

Central Linn High School (CLHS) measures student academic growth using a proficiency model and grading system. The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are important learning goals each student must attain. Students learn in different manners and at different rates. Therefore, CLHS will track students in their attainment of the CCSS and award credit for classes once the standards for that class have been met. *All Language Arts courses will be weighted as follows: 90% of a student’s grade will be based on assessment scores and 10% will be based on practice scores.*

CLHS will report to students and families a student’s progress using the following scale:

**Standard Grading Points**

- 4.0–3.60 = Mastery demonstrated; student can apply understanding and make connections
- 3.2–3.59 = Exceeds minimum standards; student can apply understanding
- 3.0–3.19 = Meets minimum standards; student demonstrates understanding of the standards
- 2.0 –2.99 = Does Not Meet standards, but some progress has been made (no credit earned)
- 0.0–1.99 = Little or no demonstration of understanding of standards (no credit earned)

**Late Work Policy:**

If a student does not turn in an assessment when it is due, they are required to attend Friday School and make a plan with their teacher for completing that assessment. Failure to do so will result in being marked ineligible every week until the assessment is either completed and passed, or a plan is put into place with the teacher.

**Retaking Courses/Summer School Policy:**

If a student fails either or both terms of the course they are enrolled in with a grade of 1.99 or lower, they will not be awarded credit and required to retake the courses the following school year. If a student fails either or both semesters of the course they are enrolled in with a grade of 2.00-2.99, they will be given the opportunity to make up failed assessments and/or standards at summer school. If they complete the course work over summer school, they will not have to repeat their current course. If they do not attend or complete work at summer school, they will be required to retake their failed course(s). Incompletes will be given at the discretion of the teacher, and it will be an agreement between the student and teacher that is communicated to parents/guardians prior to the end of first term.

**Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism Policy:**

There is zero tolerance for academic dishonesty and plagiarism. Academic dishonesty and plagiarism shows a lack of respect, a lack of truthfulness, and a lack of character. All academic dishonesty and plagiarism will be turned directly over to administration.

PLAGIARISM INCLUDES (but is not limited to):

- Copying all or part of someone's work and submitting it as your own
- Using a source (paraphrase or quote) without proper citations
- Collaborating on an independent assignment

Language Arts SELECTIVES ONLY

**Parent Permission for Young Adult Literature Required Material**

The content for this course contains material that requires a higher level of maturity than that of a regular Language Arts course. It is up to the parent to determine the readiness of their student to read books or view movies that contain mature and/or explicit subject matter.

This class will focus on the young adult genre of literature. While they have a choice in the book(s) they are reading, I want parents to be aware of the common themes found in Young Adult novels: Understanding identity (coming of age, gender, sexuality, race, etc.), first love, family conflicts and/or dynamics, abuse (sexual, physical, emotional), mental health (anxiety, depression, suicide, etc.) It is the goal of young adult novelists to write books that are both engaging and relatable in hopes of encouraging high school aged students to read. None of these themes will be taught explicitly in the classroom, but your student may choose to read a book revolving around one or more of the previously listed themes.

This information is provided for your consideration. Should you not agree to your student being exposed to this material, your student will be placed in a class that provides a more appropriate setting.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I **GIVE** permission for my son/daughter to read/view the material identified above.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I **DO NOT** give permission for my son/daughter to read/view the material identified above, and wish for them to be moved into a different course.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Permission for Creative Writing Required Material**

The content for this course contains material that requires a higher level of maturity than that of a regular Language Arts course. It is up to the parent to determine the readiness of their student to read books or view movies that contain mature and/or explicit subject matter.

This class will allow students to write from a creative lens, which differs greatly from the academic style writing they would do in a regular Language Arts course. Students will be given freedom to express themselves, and may choose to write about topics that might be deemed inappropriate for the classroom. These topics will not be required nor explicitly taught, but other students may be exposed to them when writings are shared with the class.

This information is provided for your consideration. Should you not agree to your student being exposed to this material, your student will be placed in a class that provides a more appropriate setting.

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Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Permission for Sports Literature and Writing Required Material**

The content for this course contains material that requires a higher level of maturity than that of a regular Language Arts course. It is up to the parent to determine the readiness of their student to read books or view movies that contain mature and/or explicit subject matter.

This class will focus on the genre of sports. Students will be required to read different pieces of writing from respected and award winning sports journalists. They will also be watching excerpts of various sports documentaries. Because the target demographic of these things are not high school classrooms, there may be some language or topics, such as racism or abuse, that are not deemed appropriate for the classroom.

This information is provided for your consideration. Should you not agree to your student being exposed to this material, your student will be placed in a class that provides a more appropriate setting.

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**Parent Permission for Literature of the Holocaust Required Material**

The content for this course contains material that requires a higher level of maturity than that of a regular Language Arts course. It is up to the parent to determine the readiness of their student to read books or view movies that contain mature and/or explicit subject matter.

This class will focus on the Holocaust. By the nature of this topic, students will be exposed to topics that can be difficult to process: starvation, abuse, murder, vulgar language, etc. While all content will be first or second hand accounts of a historical event, it can be difficult for more emotionally sensitive students to work through.

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Permission for Literature of Minorities Required Material**

The content for this course contains material that requires a higher level of maturity than that of a regular Language Arts course. It is up to the parent to determine the readiness of their student to read books or view movies that contain mature and/or explicit subject matter.

This class will focus on literature written by minority authors. The content of this class will look at how the author's background influences their writing. Some themes that may be discussed are: racism, abuse, immigration, refugeeism, etc.

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Permission for Shakespeare, Irony, and Drama Required Material**

The content for this course contains material that requires a higher level of maturity than that of a regular Language Arts course. It is up to the parent to determine the readiness of their student to read books or view movies that contain mature and/or explicit subject matter.

This class will focus on the works of William Shakespeare as well as works from other playwrights. The content of this class will include instances of murder, betrayal, adultery, sexuality. None of these topics will be explicitly taught, but they are present in the plays that will be read.

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**Parent Permission for Science Fiction Literature Required Material**

The content for this course contains material that requires a higher level of maturity than that of a regular Language Arts course. It is up to the parent to determine the readiness of their student to read books or view movies that contain mature and/or explicit subject matter.

This class will focus on the science fiction genre. Typical elements of science fiction include: dystopian worlds, aliens and other life forms, superpowers, etc. All content taught in the class will be based in fiction.

This information is provided for your consideration. Should you not agree to your student being exposed to this material, your student will be placed in a class that provides a more appropriate setting.

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