**English Language Arts Course 2018-2019**

**Overview:** Welcome to the English Language Arts program at William H. Ray Elementary School. Having a solid foundation in English Language Arts is extremely important for success in high school and beyond. We will read a number of high quality, age-appropriate novels this year along with nonfiction text, in addition to selections from our literature textbook. We will examine literary elements, reading strategies, and vocabulary in the context of the novels we read. Students will improve writing skills by responding to the text along with a strong focus on analytical, argumentative and research based writing. Students will work independently, in pairs, and in small groups to master the material.

**Grading Scale:** 90% - 100% = A

80% - 89% = B

70% - 79% = C

60% - 69% = D

Below 60% = F

**Quarterly and Final Reading and Writing grades are figured using the following system:**

* Assessment and Projects 45% (Tests, Quizzes, Exit Slips)
* Homework – 10%
* Class Assignments and Class Participation – 45%

**Classroom Expectations:** Your responsibility is to respect your classmates, teacher, materials, follow directions, and come to class on-time and prepared! If you complete assignments on time, participate in all activities, and study for quizzes and tests, you will do well. I am committed to providing a rigorous and challenging curriculum, treating students with respect, and grading and returning your assignments in a timely manner. I will provide you with individual and group learning opportunities. I will answer all questions to the best of my ability and grade openly and fairly. I will communicate with your parents/guardians and expect the same from them.

**Homework:** Homework will be given on a regular basis and students are responsible for writing it down in their agenda books and turning it in **on-time**. **Independent reading is also apart of your daily homework.**

Check our Middle School Blog for updates:

[**http://middleschoolray.weebly.com**](http://middleschoolray.weebly.com/)

**Read Theory -** Students are required to sign-up at [www.readtheory.org](http://www.readtheory.org). Send a request to snjohnson7@cps.edu . Read Theory is a homework grade that is graded weekly. ALL students are required to complete 4 passages per week earning 70% or higher.

**Independent Reading:** Students will participate in independent reading to build fluency, increase vocabulary, build background knowledge, apply the strategies learned in their reading classes, and gain information

that supports their interests and strengths. After investigating a wide array of activities and the correlation between reading achievement and reading improvement, the Anderson, Wilson, and Fielding (1988) study on independent reading determined that “the amount of time students spend in independent reading was the best predictor of reading achievement and also the best predictor of the amount of gain in reading achievement.

**Parents: Please ensure that your child is reading from his/her independent reading novel for at least 30 minutes a day/night and complete the daily assignment.**

**Book Borrowing Policy:** Students will be given the opportunity to borrow novels from our classroom library. Some of these books will be ‘choice books’ for their independent reading, while others will be novels we are reading as a whole class. Students and parents are responsible for ensuring that ALL borrowed books are not damaged and returned to our classroom library upon the due date. **Please be prepared to replace all damaged and/or lost books.** ($5.00 or replacement)

**Supply List**

**Please have all of the items.**

I am looking forward to a great year! Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Mrs. Johnson-Finner

snjohnson7@cps.edu

**Parents/Guardians:** The above information is for and your student to keep for reference. Please sign below, cut on the dotted line, and return this slip no later than this week. Thank you!

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

I have read and understand this course outline and I will assist my child in meeting the English Language Arts requirements. I also understand and will adhere to the “**Book Borrowing Policy**”. I am aware that I am responsible for any lost or damaged books my child borrows from the classroom and I agree to replace the book/s.

Adult Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_