

**Advanced English Language Arts (ELA) /English Language Arts (ELA) Syllabus  
Franklin Academy Boynton Beach**

**Mr. Lanza**  
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WELCOME TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

### **Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to provide middle school students with the skills necessary to read texts of high complexity. This course will cover reading, writing, and listening skills in addition to preparing students for high school and college. Communication is the hallmark of a productive life, and everything we do in our classes will be to further your child's abilities as a communicator in our society.

### **Note to Advanced Level Students**

Academic rigor involves more than assigning students a greater quantity of work. Through the application, analysis, evaluation, and creation of complex ideas that are often abstract and multi-faceted, our students are challenged to think and collaborate critically on the content they are learning.

### **Educational Materials**

- *Collections* series text (hardcover and consumable Close Reader)
- 1 1/2 - 2" binder with dividers
- Novels TBA (class sets will be provided where available, but students are asked to obtain their own copies if possible and when necessary)
- Pens, pencils (blue or black ink only), highlighters, and loose leaf paper
- One-subject spiral notebook or marble composition book
- One pocket folder with prongs
- Dictionary and thesaurus

### **Student Evaluation and Grading Policy**

Student grades will be evaluated by the Florida DOE and Palm Beach County School District grading scale as follows: **A – 90-100%, B – 80-89%, C – 70-79%, D – 60-69%, F – 0-59%**. Grades will be calculated as stated in the Parent/Student Handbook as listed below:

- Tests 35%
- Quizzes 25%
- Classwork 20%
- Projects 20%

### **Franklin Academy Homework Policy (verbatim from Parent/Student Handbook)**

Franklin Academy recognizes the important role that homework plays in the enhancement of a child's overall education. However, Franklin Academy also recognizes that these benefits must be weighed against legitimate

family concerns and desires to have their children participate in after-school activities, religious and family events, as well as much needed leisure and downtime. Studies have shown that any activity, no matter how rewarding, can only be rewarding for a limited time.

Therefore, the Franklin Academy no-homework policy strives to create a balance between the need to give homework and the needs of the family. For these reasons, homework is individualized to meet the specific needs of each student. There are times when, in order to tailor a curriculum that meets each child's specific needs, teachers may assign individualized reinforcement or extra practice in accordance with a child's level within the class.

### **Missing Assignments and Tests Due to Absence (verbatim from Parent/Student Handbook)**

All students are expected to make up work missed during an absence. For absences due to (a) illness of student, (b) illness of an immediate family member, (c) death in the family, the absence is excused hence full credit will be awarded as long as the student makes up the work during the appropriate time frame. A student has TWO days to make up the work for each day the student is absent, not including the day of return. Students who have an unexcused absence will follow the policy for Missing Assignments & Tests due to late work.

### **Missing Assignments and Tests Due to Late Work (verbatim from Parent/Student Handbook)**

All students are expected to make up work missed for any reason. Late work will be graded and 10 points will be deducted from the grade earned for each day it is late, up to five (5) days. Late work submitted after this time frame will receive half-credit (50%) of the grade earned.

### **Behavior/Rules and Procedures**

Posted in my classroom are my "Five Quotes to Live By," from which our class rules and procedures will be established in collaboration with my students:

**RULE #1 – RESPECT:** "I'm not concerned with your liking or disliking me. . . All I ask is that you RESPECT me as a human being." – Jackie Robinson

**RULE #2 – EFFORT:** "Continuous EFFORT – not strength or intelligence – is the key to unlocking your potential." – Winston Churchill

**RULE #3 – PREPARATION:** "Before anything else, PREPARATION is the key to success." – Alexander Graham Bell

**RULE #4 – POSITIVE ATTITUDE:** "A POSITIVE ATTITUDE is something everyone can work on, and everyone can learn how to employ it." – Joan Lunden

**RULE #5 – ASKING QUESTIONS:** "The important thing is not to stop ASKING QUESTIONS. Curiosity has its own reason for existing." – Albert Einstein

### **Weebly**

My website through Weebly.com (<http://fa-lanza.weebly.com>) will be the primary source of communication between us. All teachers will be using Weebly sites to post assignments, upcoming assessments, and other important information.

### **Parent Emails/Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Parent-teacher conferences will be scheduled with your availability and my flexibility in mind. Please contact me via email to schedule a conference.