Welcome to Reading & Writing Workshop I. This course is designed to improve students’ reading and writing skills in preparation for the 11th grade PSSA. Reading & Writing Workshop I serves as an extension of English 9. The class is formatted in a tutoring/enrichment style for students who have been identified based on their 8th grade PSSA scores and English class performance. Reading and writing will constitute a major part of this class. Reading & Writing Workshop I will concentrate on vocabulary, reading comprehension and analysis strategies, open-ended writing prompts, grammar, and test-taking strategies, all based on individual student needs.

**Course Objectives**

All students will demonstrate the ability to:
- read, comprehend, analyze, synthesize, and respond to various types of nonfiction and literature.
- develop strategies that enhance vocabulary development, definition, and usage.
- identify and use the essential components of language, mechanics, and standard language usage in written and oral presentations.
- write clear and concise compositions in the narrative, descriptive, persuasive, and informative modes.
- analyze and evaluate the diversity of attitudes, values, outlooks, and expectations of authors and literary works studied.
- respond actively to the core content of the curriculum through integrated reading, writing, listening, and speaking, activities.
- express their ideas in writing
- demonstrate proficiency in all competencies through the completion of performance tasks
- use reference sources to effectively research, paraphrase, and organize information for oral and written reports.
- participate in oral communication activities, such as class discussions, panel presentations, and debates on worthwhile topics.

**Graduation Requirement**

Students must pass this course with a 70% and/or pass the PSSA reading and writing exams in order to graduate. If you do not pass the 11th grade PSSA, you will be assigned to Reading & Writing Workshop IV for remediation during your senior year and you must retake the 11th grade PSSA.

**Textbooks**

- Measuring Up to the PA Academic Standards – Writing
- Grammar and Writing—*Holt Handbook*
- Various articles, novels, short stories, poems, etc. for increasing reading practice (both teacher- and student-selected)

**Materials Needed**

Bring the following materials to class each day:
- Pen or pencil
- Any materials assigned for out-of class use
- RWWSIII folder and notebook

**Notebooks:** A notebook will be essential for this class, as students will be required to keep an organized binder or folder of notes and handouts. There will be a large number of handouts and note taking, so students must have notebook paper or a spiral bound notebook for notes. Each student will have a file in class that will contain missed assignments and graded work.
CLASSROOM POLICIES & EXPECTATIONS

Classroom Behavior: Your responsibilities in this class are:

1. Be Prompt
   - I am in the classroom when the bell rings.
   - I turn in my work on time.
2. Be Prepared
   - I bring my materials to class.
   - I do my homework assignments.
   - I dress appropriately.
3. Be Polite
   - I raise my hand before I speak.
   - I listen and speak respectfully to staff members and classmates.
   - I allow others to express their opinions and beliefs.
   - I respect others’ personal space.
4. Be Productive
   - I participate actively in class.
   - I work with my team members in group assignments.
   - I complete my class assignments.
5. Be Proud
   - I take pride in myself, my work and my school.

Failure to carry out these responsibilities will result in the following consequences:
1st offense: warning
2nd offense: change seat and phone call home (for disruptive behavior)
3rd offense: discipline referral

Tardy Policy:
Students are expected to be on time for class. If you are late for class without a pass, you must report to the monitor located on that floor of the building, receive a detention slip, and return to class. Your detention slip is your pass to class. If you have a signed pass from the office or a teacher, you will be admitted to class without penalty.

Cell Phone Policy:
In accordance with the Woodland Hills School District policy, students are not to use cell phones, MP3 players, cameras, or other electronic devices in school. If you use any electronic device in class, other than for class activities, it will result in a referral and disciplinary action.

Profanity/Foul Language:
In accordance with the Woodland Hills School District policy, using profanity or foul language in class will result in an immediate referral and suspension.

Participation: Students will receive a daily participation grade. Students can lose points for any of (but not limited to) the following situations:
1. being late to class. Students are expected to arrive before the tardy bell rings.
2. coming unprepared to class. Bring all materials (assignments, notebook, and pen/pencil) every day.
3. not having completed homework assignments (especially reading assignments) and being unable to join in class discussions.
4. refusing to participate when the class reads aloud, works on individual or group assignments, etc.
5. disrupting the learning process in the room.

Absences and Make-Up Work:
You are expected to make up any work due to absence, and it is your responsibility to obtain your make-up work. A folder for each student is provided for handouts missed due to absence; please check for your work upon your return. Students have the number of excused days missed to make up missed assignments, quizzes, and tests (for example, if you miss two days, you have two days to make up the work you missed). If you need more time, please make arrangements with your teacher before the due date.
The quality of your work will be higher if you attend class and meet all deadlines.

ALL OTHER SCHOOL DISCIPLINE POLICIES WILL BE ENFORCED IN THIS CLASS!
EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT:

Grading System: There will be various forms of evaluation used in this course. Major writing assignments will be graded according to the PSSA scoring rubric, and points will be awarded for completing the steps in the writing process. Open-ended writings will be graded on the PSSA 3-point scale. In-class activities and homework assignments will be scored based on effort and thoroughness in completing the task. The rubric is as follows:

- Advanced: Detailed, thorough effort is evident from in-depth, well-constructed responses
- Proficient: Assignment is completed but responses lack in-depth detail
- Basic: Assignment is partially incomplete and/or responses show some effort
- Below Basic: Assignment is incomplete and/or responses show some effort

IMPORTANT NOTE: Work copied from another student that was not assigned to be completed in a group will result in a 0 for all students involved. DO YOUR OWN WORK!

Grades will come from tests and quizzes, open-ended writings, essays, homework assignments, projects, class activities, class participation, and other assignments as given by the teacher. Mid-marking period progress reports will be distributed for the benefit of students and parents.

Weekly Calendar: This class will follow a similar schedule every week. Daily activities are:

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<th>Monday</th>
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<th>Wednesday</th>
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<td>Vocabulary – weekly PSSA words list, definitions, prefixes, suffixes, roots</td>
<td>Reading Strategy – introduce &amp; practice by applying strategy to a passage; multiple choice questions</td>
<td>Open-ended writing assignment – based on weekly readings</td>
<td>Grammar – mini grammar lesson, practice, multiple choice questions</td>
<td>Current Events/Reader’s Choice - Bring in and discuss a current event or participate in silent reading of a book of your choice</td>
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Note: This calendar is subject to change depending on the school calendar, availability of computer labs, and larger assignments (essays, test prep, etc.).

Homework: Regular homework will be given, mainly in the form of reading and writing activities. This is not a lecture-based class; instead, there will be a great deal of class discussion and partner/small group work. Because of the nature of the class, it is very important that everyone reads the assignment. You cannot discuss what you did not read!! Keeping up with scheduled reading and writing assignments will make this course easier and more effective for everyone. In addition, some out of class assignments and projects will be totally independent and student-directed. You will not be given class time to do what you should do at home.

Quizzes and Tests: Many of the quizzes and tests will be based on practice PSSA tests, both for reading and for writing. Occasionally there will be quizzes on reading, vocabulary, and/or grammar.

Writing Assignments: These will be assigned at regular intervals and mainly tie into the reading selections. Every Friday, students will respond to open-ended questions as practice for the PSSA. Open-ended writings will be graded on the PSSA 3-point scale. Students will also write informative and persuasive essays. Major papers and essays will be graded using the PSSA writing rubric. Students will be expected to use proper grammar and incorporate the course’s vocabulary into their writing.

Projects: Projects and presentations will also enhance the reading and will be completed regularly. These may be completed individually or in small groups. Students will use various forms of technology in their projects.

Late or Incomplete Assignments: Late work for reasons other than excused absences will not be accepted or will be heavily penalized. If accepted late, homework and small assignments will be worth half credit after the due date, and larger assignments will lose 10% per day late. To avoid stress on everyone’s part, do not wait until the end of the grading period to find out if you have any missed work. Check Edline regularly for your grade and any missing assignments.

Extra Credit: Extra credit in this class is for students who are showing a positive effort but still unable to pass. If you have completed all the required assignments and your grade is still below 70%, you may do extra credit to improve your grade to 70%. Extra credit assignments will be student initiated, but each assignment must begin with a teacher/student conference to determine point value and approval. On occasion, bonus points may be available on tests, quizzes, and assignments.