

Natomas Middle School
Grade 7-8
Room M222
Mrs. Baker-Turney, MA
2020/20201 Syllabus

Introduction: Welcome back to school! I look forward to working with you this year! My name is Mrs. Baker-Turney. Everyone calls me Mrs. BakerT. I am the 7th and 8th grade SDC Language Arts and Social Studies teacher for the 2020/2021 virtual and in-person school year. I am very happy to be teaching again this year even though we are beginning with Distance Learning. No worries. It will be a great year!

Classroom Expectations: I have the highest of expectations for all students to reach their full potential academically and socially. I encourage independent learning when applicable. To foster responsibility, as in the general education classes, students are expected to be on time every morning (even in zoom sessions). Homework is part of the class grade. Students are responsible for completing all missed assignments.

Virtual Learning Links and Information

I will be inputting all announcements and classwork into Google Classroom. Students will need to share all work with me in Google Drive or Google Classroom.

How to join Google Classroom--

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1H_ftOYG06RI7LeMyafJWeY5cMHUxrwzF&authuser=0

All class periods will be held on a zoom session. Students are expected to arrive on time to class and have their camera on for attendance. They must sign in with their first and last names. They cannot appear with backdrop or emoji. It is important that students stay on zoom, participate, and do their classwork. Attendance counts and all virtual classwork will be graded.

How to get into zoom---

<https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fnatomasunified.org%2Fcontent%2Fuploads%2F2020%2F03%2FZoom-Directions-for-Students-Chromebook.pdf&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNEB-zJjQvbyFQ6nZMM5J0CdNGJXkw>

Here are some zoom expectations for you to go over with your students. Let me know if you have any questions.

Zoom session expectations

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1K9fIB74ResLtyeK99qEYzuemdIx_yxBeVTKmRJYm2-k/edit?usp=sharing

Class Procedures:

Planners: Your children will be getting used to class procedures in my room as well as in their general classrooms. They will be using their planners (virtual during Distance Learning) to record information that you need to know as far as classroom assignments, homework, and projects. Please read their planners every day. All teachers expect you to be reading them.

Homework: There will be a weekly reading log. Students are to read 20-30 min. a day. The reading log is collected on Fridays. **The reading logs will be linked in the ELA Google Classrooms.**

Learning Strategies: Your students will experience a variety of modes of instruction to engage and motivate. Some of these include multimedia presentations, cooperative learning (working with partners), individual instruction, working in small group settings, working in whole group settings, interactive computer activities, and kinesthetic movements.

Testing: There will be end of chapter or unit assessments. Most will be from work we do in class. If students need to study for them, it will be written in the planner. All other assessment dates will be written in the planner.

Recommended Materials include the following:

We recommend that every student have a **planner, sharpened pencils**, and a highlighter in their backpacks at all times. (During Distance Learning, students need a chromebook, and Hotspot provided by NUSD if no WiFi at home.)

Curriculum:

We will be using the common core state standards as a guide to teaching and learning Language Arts and Social Studies. We will be using the grade level curriculum

7th graders will be exploring Medieval and Early Modern Times.

8th graders will be exploring United States History.

7th and 8th grade Language Arts will be through Study Sync or novels.

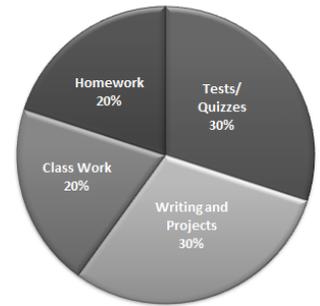
In Language Arts, all students will be continuing to learn grammar skills at their academic levels. We will continue to discuss literature and expository writings in terms of characters, settings, themes, plots, comparing and contrasting, responding to literature, text structure, and author's purpose. We will be using a wide variety of nonfiction and fiction text through the Study Sync curriculum. The students will be practicing and becoming experienced expressing themselves clearly and confidently through speech and writing. We will explore writing in terms of narrative, research, opinion, and informative compositions.

Grading:

Academic Grading: For grading, the English Language Arts and Social Studies department have established a weighted points system. **Tests/Quizzes equal 30% of their grade. Writing & Projects are 30%** of the students overall grade. **Class Work is 30%** of the overall grade. **Homework is 10%** of the

overall grade. When these categories are averaged together the student will have an overall grade percentage. This is the breakdown of grade percentages. Students are allowed to retake a test for a better grade.

ELA Grade Categories



Grades

A = 100-90% B = 89-80% C = 79-70% D = 69-60% F = 59-0%

Infinite Campus is Natomas Middle School’s online attendance and grade program. Parents and students can check grades by logging into this system. Log in information is included on the student’s schedule and can also be obtained from the front office staff.

Encouragement/Classroom Behavior Management Plan:

In order for students to learn and make progress on IEP goals, we need to foster a **safe, respectful, kind, and responsible** learning environment. I use positive reinforcement to insure students have incentives to follow expected classroom behaviors. Expected behaviors include collaboration with classmates, responsibility for oneself and their work, and respect for teaching staff, peers and classroom procedures. As mentioned before, students need to be on time, bring their materials, and finish assignments by their due dates. Positive reinforcements include:

- Anytime students are performing above and beyond the normal expectations Baker Bucks are given.
- When students are working well, by staying on task without any reminders Baker Bucks are given.
- When students bring in their homework and assignments completed on time Baker Bucks are given.
- Students having their planners completed receive Baker Bucks.

- **5 Baker Bucks =**
 - an item from teacher store on Mon.
 - Have ball chair for a class period
 - bathroom pas
 - buy pencil

- **10 Baker Bucks = -**
 - No homework pass
 - 10 minutes of free time
 - Have a ball chair at your desk all day
 - First in line pass for lunch

- **15 Baker Bucks**
 - elevator ride
- **100 Baker Bucks**
 - big back of chips
 - book from book order
 - special request

Natomas Middle School also rewards students with **Panther Paws** when it is observed that a student is doing something wonderful, amazing, respectful, and out of the ordinary good citizenship.

Management: We encourage positive reinforcement in the classroom. Students are reminded of the school's 3 main rules: to **Be Respectful**, **Be Responsible**, and **Be a Problem Solver**. After **3 reminders**, if student disrupts the classroom learning environment, First, they have a private conversation with the teacher or IA. If the student is still having a hard time with managing themselves they are asked to take a 3 minute break in the back of the classroom. If the student is still having a difficult time, there will be a phone call home and they may be sent to the office to have restorative justice discussion with vice-principal.

Please contact me with any questions:

Carol Baker-Turney or "Mrs. BakerT"

cbaker-turney@natomasunified.org

For Parents and Guardians: Please send me an email with this information. Thank you!

Please confirm that you have read and understand the policies in Mrs. BakerT's Syllabus. Also, please provide contact information so I may reach you to help support your student.

Student Name: _____

Guardian Name: (Print)_____

Guardian Signature:_____

EMAIL (best way to communicate):_____

Cell Phone: _____

