

# Seventh Grade Humanities Syllabus

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Hello CMS students and families,

Welcome to 7<sup>th</sup> grade! We are excited to get to know you. Please read this syllabus together with your parents or guardian. When you are finished reading, please sign and return to your teacher.

**Our mission statement:** *All students in the Cashmere Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> Grade will grow as readers, become more effective writers, and deepen their ability to think critically about the world around them.* Both our English Language Arts and our Social Studies curricula are based on these skills, so together we call it: *Humanities*.


## Here are the highlights of our year:

- **Reader's Workshop Launch-** where truth meets storytelling, with the story of refugee Salva Dut and his amazing journey out of Sudan during the civil war.
- **Investigating Characterization-** students close-read to find out how characters' actions lead readers to the theme of a story.
- **Narrative Writing-** students dive into the realm of fiction writing. We'll explore the art of crafting compelling characters, building immersive settings, and developing engaging plots.
- In December, we delve into the historical context of *A Christmas Carol* and Scrooge's character change in this timeless story.
- **Dystopian Literature** takes students to alternate realities that challenge our understanding of society, power, and human nature. We'll explore thought-provoking novels that push the boundaries of imagination while sparking discussions on ethics, government, and the consequences of our actions while exploring the ways in which story elements impact one another.
- **Argumentative Writing** equips students with the power of persuasion; students construct claims, cite evidence, acknowledge counterclaims, and produce a polished, cited essay.
- Students use all of these skills as they learn about **Washington State History**. We begin with geography and the way Native Americans interacted with it since time immemorial. We will explore early WA settlements, statehood, the treaty making period, urbanization of WA, and finish with Washington's role in World War II.

For more information about our curriculum, please view our [Year-Long Plan](#) on our school website.

## Materials for Class

Bring to class every day the following items

- Charged Chromebook & Charger
- Independent Reading Book (IRB)
- Pencils/Pens
- Your engaged brain 

## Chromebooks and Google Classroom

Every student at CMS will have a Chromebook checked out to them at the beginning of this year. It is your responsibility to take care of your Chromebook and keep it charged for use every day. Proper digital citizenship will be taught and is expected of students at all times at home and at school. Google Classroom will be used in 7th grade Humanities.

## Grades

### Grades in Skyward are weighted:

- 85% Summative Assessment (connected to standards)
- 15% Practice (daily work & progress)
- 0% Behavior (Exceptional = E, Satisfactory = S, Unsatisfactory = U)

### Grading Format

Grades may be accessed by visiting Family Access on Skyward. You will see an overall course grade in a traditional A-F format. In previous years, students received a grade on a scale of 4-1, so this may be an adjustment for most families.

We use the following scale:

- A = 4 / above grade level = >95%
- A to C+ = 3 / within grade level = 94%-77%
- C to F = 2-1 / below grade = level <76%

### Retake Policy

Students can show understanding through multiple opportunities to assess.

### Homework

- Students are expected to always have an independent reading book that they are reading at home **and** in class, reading at least 20 minutes daily.
- Students will be expected to read informational texts and complete a Reader's Response on a regular basis.
- Additionally, students may need to complete on-going projects or unfinished classwork at home as needed.

## Behavior

We expect students to be awesome! This means following our CMS Handbook rules and demonstrating **Bulldog PRIDE**: Participation, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Excellence. We will hold students accountable for their behavior and will communicate with families when students are not meeting expectations.

Please note that **behavior is reflected on Skyward as 0% of the student's overall grade**. However, as per our CMS handbook, a poor behavior grade will result in ineligibility for sports and other extracurricular activities.

The 7th grade team has high expectations for 7th graders. We expect the following to receive an "Exceptional" grade in Behavior:

- Coming to class prepared and on time
- Proper use of technology, for example: staying on task
- Respectfulness to teachers and peers
- Turning in assignments on time
- Following the CMS handbook
- Going above and beyond to contribute to a successful classroom environment

## Attendance

Attendance in class is extremely important. If you are absent from class you miss out on instructions, lessons, conversations, funny stories, teamwork, and questions. If you are absent, it is your responsibility as a student to meet with your teacher to find out what you missed and how you can catch up. *Use Google Classroom if and when you are absent to keep up with all work.*

## Communication

Google Classroom will be used as a hub of assignments, resources, and as a communication tool. Please check Skyward and your Google Calendar regularly.

School Status (previously called ClassTag) is our school's designated tool for parent communication. Please feel free to contact us via School Status, email, or phone.

We look forward to a wonderful year!

### Seventh Grade Humanities Team,

April Hemmer

Samantha McCrary

Olivia Newberry

I have read and understood the expectations of 7th-grade Humanities.

Parent/Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_