

# JAGUARS PRE-A.P. LANGUAGE ARTS SYLLABUS

S Y 2021 - 22

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School hours: 8:30-3:30 Mon-Fri School website: <https://ums.gdoe.net> Jaguars: <https://preapjaguarsums.weebly.com>

**GDOE Vision:** Every student: Responsible, Respectful, and Ready for life

**GDOE Mission:** Prepares all students for life, promotes excellence and provides support. <https://www.gdoe.net/>

**UMS Mission:** The Luis P. Untalan School Community will empower students with the knowledge that will enable them to be competent, productive, and responsible citizens in our society.

**A. MODEL OF LEARNING/COURSE DESCRIPTION** In a face-to-face setting, Pre-Advanced Placement students will engage in discussion, independent research, planning and organization, and group and individual practice to write different types of essays, including narrative (stories), expository (writing that informs/explains), and argumentative/persuasive. They will also practice editing, group collaboration, and listening and speaking skills to develop their speech and writing. Students in Pre-A.P. are expected to have a strong, grade-level foundation of writing and strong personal organization and time management to keep up with the anticipated rigors of Pre-A.P. language arts.

## B. COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will

1. demonstrate an understanding of the English language by organizing, writing, editing, and responding to narrative, expository, argumentative/persuasive, and research paragraphs and essays.
2. demonstrate a clear and coherent form of essay writing, which includes development and organization, and writing that contains introductions, supporting evidence, and conclusions.
3. write using MLA format and formal writing standards.
4. write and speak with a proficient understanding of standard English conventions appropriate to grade level. This will enable students to build on the foundational skills and strategies needed for success in high school AP English courses.

**C. QUARTERLY SKILLS** The course will cover (but will not be limited to) the following types of writing and skills:

1<sup>st</sup> Sem.: •**Narrative** (Q1) •**Expository** (Q2) 2<sup>nd</sup> Sem.: •**Persuasive** (Q3 & 4) •**Research** (Q3 & 4)

Throughout the year, students will write both short and longer works (5-paragraph essay for 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade, longer for 8<sup>th</sup>), depending on the type of writing or skill(s) being covered during the applicable quarter. Focus skills throughout the year include:

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|--|---|
| *topic sentences & thesis statements   | *outlining and organizing writing   |
| *editing (self-editing & peer-editing) | *mechanics and spelling   |
| *transitional words and phrases        | *Writing conventions (style and usage; subject-verb agreement; parallel structure; diction) |
| *MLA format                            |   |

**D. INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES & RESOURCES:** This course will use the following instructional strategies:

Online learning platform/mgmt. system	Assigned texts or passages	Teacher-made and other assessments
Four-Square Method	Instructional and related videos	Hard copies of assignments
Digital assignments	PowerPoint/slides presentations	Face-to-face direct instruction (lecture)
Entrance/Exit tickets & short quizzes	Various AP strategies	Self-directed/independent learning

**E. ASSIGNMENTS** Assignments are given for practice and to support classroom instruction. Adequate class time will be given for students to work on and/or complete assignments. Students are highly encouraged to seek assistance from classmates first before calling or texting the teacher. Keep track of the Jaguar Student Info chat. Students are responsible for

- checking assignment notices on the online learning platform/learning management system and in class announcements.
- completing and submitting assignments; Pre-AP students should not need constant reminders.
- completing and submitting assignments on time. Late assignments will receive an academic grade but may negatively affect citizenship grade.

**Students may be required to work independently and must therefore be responsible for assignment completion and submission to avoid delays in grading and feedback. Students must regularly check the online learning platform/learning management system that will be used to ensure assignments are received, completed, and submitted.**

**F. GRADING:** Academic grades will be given according to the district's grading policy, using Standards-Based Grading scale. Please review carefully to ensure understanding of grading scale and citizenship grading.

**1. Final Grades will be assessed at the end of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> SEMESTER. (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter)**

Final Semester Grading will reflect a **Standards-Based/Tiered Grading system** with **6-levels classified as the following:**

4 – Exceeds Standard	0 – Unable to Perform
3 – Proficient	NE – No Grade / No Evidence
2 – Approaching Proficiency	
1 – Needs Support	

**Criteria for each level include the following:**

**4- Exceeds Standard:** In addition to demonstrating understanding and mastery of standard, content knowledge, and skills, student goes beyond what is explicitly taught or is able to apply the standard or skill to real world situations.

**3- Proficient:** Demonstrates understanding and mastery of standard, content knowledge, and skills.

**2- Approaching Proficiency:** Defines and Identifies content knowledge or uses skills alone but needs help demonstrating full understanding of standard.

**1- Needs Support:** Even with help, the student has difficulty performing basic skills or defining content knowledge and is well below grade level standard.

**0- Unable to Perform:** Even with significant help, student is unable to perform any of the basic skills or define content knowledge.

**NE- No Grade/ No Evidence:** No Work or Not Enough Work submitted to make a final determination. (See teacher comments).

**The final/composite grade will be converted to a letter grade using the following conversion scale:**

3.6 – 4.0 = A+	2.0 – 2.4 = C+	<b>NOTE: Increments of .5 may be used to recognize partial mastery of a level.</b>
3.0 – 3.5 = A	1.5 – 1.9 = C	
2.8 – 2.9 = B+	1.0 – 1.4 = D	
2.5 – 2.7 = B	Below 1.0 = F	

**2. "Point in Time" evaluations or Progress Reports will be issued at the end of 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, reflected as one of these:**

- Pass (P):** Enough evidence to determine passing
- Not Enough Evidence (NE):** Not Enough Evidence to determine passing
- No Grade (NG):** No contact with student or no evidence submitted. This grade will remain until changed by teacher or school official and will NOT automatically convert to an "F" as per existing grading policy.

**NOTE: Administration has the discretion to allow or require tiered grading to be reported for the Progress Period/Grade.**

**CITIZENSHIP: 1. Citizenship and Life Readiness Skills will be determined by the following criteria:**

- a. **Engagement:** Participates in class discussions and activities, asks and answers questions, and is on-task either in-person or on video conferences, depending on model of learning or event.
- b. **Organization and Planning:** Organizes notes, handouts, supplies, and instructional materials; plans assignments, activities and tasks effectively; and manages time efficiently to meet deadlines.
- c. **Completion and Submission of Assignments:** Completes and submits assignments regularly and on time.
- d. **Conduct:** Displays respectful and appropriate conduct when communicating with teachers, peers, and others either online or during face-to-face instruction.
- e. **Accountability:** Follows school rules and takes responsibility for actions.
- f. **Attendance & Punctuality:** Attends class regularly and on time.

**2. Citizenship and Life Readiness Skills will be reported using the following: (4.0) Excellent**

**(3.0) Satisfactory**

**(2.0) Needs Improvement**

**(1.0) Unsatisfactory**

**(NE) Not Enough Evidence/No Evidence, or No Effort**

As always Pre-A.P. students are expected to maintain the highest standards, especially as outlined in the Pre-AP Contract.

Students who want to join or are involved in school organizations, activities, or sports must maintain 4.0 or 3.0 Citizenship scores.

**G. ATTENDANCE** Attendance in class and online sessions is critical for the academic success of the student. Students using the Online Model of Instruction will be **required to be visibly and audibly present during all assigned sessions**. Attendance will be monitored and marked according to the district and school policies for attendance. Student attendance policies can be found in the Board of Education Policies & in Student Handbook. Attendance can be monitored via Parent Portal (see school website on first page). **Whenever possible, please schedule doctor, dental, and other appointments outside of school times/days.**

**H. STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND PROTOCOLS**

**All Pre-A.P. Students**

- Pre-A.P. students should be able to work independently, work at a faster class pace, be able to handle increased amounts of writing assignments, and manage time efficiently. Pre-AP students are expected to regularly monitor their own progress.
- Students should expect additional demands on time, personal organization, and commitment.
- Students should display high levels of motivation, independence, and organization.
- Pre-A.P. students are role model students who should display exemplary citizenship online or face-to-face.
- Students are expected to use proper online etiquette and follow all rules relative to internet use and internet resources.
- Students are highly encouraged to be ready to learn with a writing tool, notebook, homework, handout, or other resources.

**FACE TO FACE CLASS PROTOCOLS**

- Wear a face mask at all times in the classroom; mask breaks may be granted by teacher (student may step outside).
- Maintain indicated social distancing requirements in the classroom, hallways, restrooms, and offices.
- All documents for signature – *excuse notes, field trip forms, hall passes, athletic contracts, monitoring forms, etc.*, are to be placed on teacher’s desk prior to the start of instruction. There should be no interruptions for a signature during lessons.
- Use time wisely to complete and submit assignments on time.

**ENTERING AND EXITING CLASSROOM**

- Enter classroom as directed, quietly and quickly, while maintaining social distancing protocols.
- Enter the classroom, sanitize hands, equipment, and work area.
- Be in your seat to be dismissed when the bell rings.
- Use a hallway pass whenever you leave the room and log out before leaving the class and log in when you return.
- No eating, drinking, or chewing gum in class.
- Appropriate language and speech is always expected.
- Electronics **may** be approved by teacher for particular activities; phones, ear buds/Air Pods should otherwise not be used.
- **No** leaving class once the tardy bell rings to get materials or supplies you may have forgotten in another class.

**ONLINE PROTOCOLS (in case of reversion to online MOL or for synchronous classes)**

- Do not use vulgar or obscene language in any speech, writing, avatar images, icons or backgrounds; no bullying.
- Observe all etiquette and rules for using the internet and internet resources.
- Be present visibly and audibly at all assigned sessions; teacher will note attendance during sessions.
- Check your assignment sources on a regular basis.
- Submit all work electronically where assigned.
- If attending a class/lesson during a scheduled time, work in an appropriate, distraction-free space/area.
- Jaguars will be held to the highest standards of academic honesty.

**I. LANGUAGE ARTS STUDENT SUPPLIES** Your child will receive the following from UMS for Round 1: 3 composition notebooks, 1 pack college rule filler paper, 2 pocket assorted colored folders, 2 pens, 8 count of pencils, 2 block erasers, 1 box of crayons or colored pencils, and 5 fabric masks (please wash before using). School admin. has advised that more supplies will be forthcoming in subsequent rounds. With this in mind, ***the RECOMMENDED supplies for Pre-AP Language Arts are listed below.*** To promote academic achievement, students should be prepared for class tasks. Pre-A.P. students should be able to access internet and printing services after school hours (home, public library, internet cafes) to complete assignments as needed. #TechnologyUsers!

**For Daily FACE-TO-FACE School Work** (some provided by UMS)

- blue or black ink pens; red pens for editing; pencils
- One 3-prong plastic folder w/ at least 60 sheets of looseleaf
- 5 sheet protectors to be placed in folder
- one composition notebook
- internet and printing (at library) access
- a planner or method to write down assignments for all subjects/classes

**For ONLINE School Work (as needed)**

- desktop, laptop, iPad, or mobile phone with data
- printer/scanner
- coursework materials (digital handouts, notes)

**For projects and special assignments** –Students are welcome to use any resources available in the language arts classroom. Jaguars may reuse and recycle notebooks, folders, sheet protectors, foam boards, and other items from previous school years. Butcher paper will be supplied to cover up old tri-fold boards or notebooks, if needed. ☺

I look forward to a knowledge-filled and fun year with all of our Pre-AP Jaguars!

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-Mrs. Pamela Y. DeVera

APPROVED BY: LPUMS Administration: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

