



English Language Arts Department- Policy Document

Hello and welcome to the English Department at Sky Ranch Middle School! Below you will find the policies and procedures followed by ALL ELA classes at Sky Ranch. Following these procedures will help your child become a successful English student and take **FLIGHT** at Sky Ranch.

Homework:

Your child will have two key components to his/her homework assignments: skill practice/preparation and independent reading. Homework will count for 15% of a student's overall grade and is essential to your child's success on assessments. Student's **FEARLESS** approach and **GRIT** during their practice of skills will help them show mastery on assessments.

Independent Reading:

In the next few weeks, teachers will be sending home more information about your child's independent reading goal. While there will be some in-school time for reading, your child will have to read for at least an average of 20 minutes per night if he/she is going to meet their independent reading goal at the end of each quarter (this is an assessment grade).

A student's independent reading (IR) assessment grade is calculated by combining their progress towards their point goal (2/3) and their average comprehension test score (1/3). Accelerated Reader (AR) 360 is the system teachers will use for this assessment. Your student is expected to take **LEADERSHIP** of their reading and communicate with their teacher when they are ready to test on their IR book (s).

Students will also have Reading Journal assignments to complete throughout the quarter. These will be counted as quiz grades.

Grading Scale:

A= 90%-100%

D= 60%-69%

B= 80%-89%

F= 0%-59%

C= 70%-79%

Extra Credit:

Students are graded based upon their mastery of standard-based skills. Because of this, there will be NO extra credit offered for any reason. Students are able to improve their grade throughout the quarter by participating successfully in retake opportunities.

Retakes:

The purpose of retaking assessments is to allow students additional opportunities to prove mastery of skills. After each assessment, students are given one (1) opportunity to retake that assessment. Retake opportunities may include any combination of the following:

- Study sessions with the teacher
- Additional practice
- Alternative assessment

Requirements for retaking an assessment are:

- Must be completed on student's own time
- All practice (homework and classwork) must be satisfactorily completed
- If a student does not complete required assignments, he/she will not be permitted to retake the assessment
- Students who choose not to complete the original assessment may NOT participate in the retake opportunity for that test/project
- Students are still responsible for new material being covered in class

Make-up work for absences:

Make-up work is accepted for all absence. As pursuant to the Washoe County School District policy, a student has the number of day (s) he/she was absent plus one day to turn in make-up work. Work turned in after the make-up period will not be counted for a grade, but is required for a student to retake a test. Students will receive at least one week's notice regarding assessment dates. Therefore, if a student is absent on an assessment due date, it will be that student's responsibility to make arrangements with their teacher to take the test on the day of his/her return. The student's grade will be marked as MISSING until the assessment is completed.

Late Work:

As noted in the school policies, late work is accepted for credit. Work is classified as late when a student is present for when the assignment is assigned AND present when the assignment is turned-in. If a student is absent when the work is assigned, they have the district mandated time frame (amount of days out plus one) to submit the work without penalty. If a student is only absent when the assignment is due, the assignment must be turned in the first day they are back at school. All late work will be docked a total of 30%.

Cheating and Plagiarism:

Students are expected to act with **HONESTY** and **INTEGRITY** in all aspects of every assignment and assessment. Cheating includes using notes or other unauthorized help on tests and quizzes, looking at another person's paper, sharing photos of assignments, copying someone else's work, etc. Plagiarism is the act of copying ANY PORTION of written work/ ideas written or created by someone other than the student and not giving credit to the real author. **All students who are involved in cheating or plagiarism will receive no credit for that assignment/ assessment, nor be able to participate in any retake opportunities.** The student will also receive an administrative referral. For further clarification, please refer to the WCSD Code of Honor.