



Integrated Language Arts
Mrs. Kesler
Team 8-2

1. Welcome to Integrated Language Arts. My name is Mrs. Kesler. I have been teaching for 35 years. I have a BA from Bellarmine University, a Masters in reading, and Rank I certification in special education from the University of Louisville. My husband and I live in Kennedy Heights. We both enjoy travel, the outdoors, hiking, and spending time with our families. We have a grown son who lives in San Diego. I love to read and write and hope that my enthusiasm for literacy will be contagious. I've found 8th grade to be a nearly perfect age for sharing ideas about great writing and books. My students have recommended to me some of the best books I've ever read.
2. At the end of the course, students will know the qualities that good readers and writers possess. They will be able to understand the importance of literacy in our lives. They will have learned to read critically, write effectively and speak with passion about important ideas.
3. Required Materials: 3-ring binder, loose leaf paper, 2 pocket folders, index cards, pens and pencils
4. Course Schedule: Areas of study include: Writing Process and Writing Mechanics; Composition; Speaking and Listening; Drama; Poetry; Short Story; Novel; Non-fiction; Reading Process and Content Area Reading. We will read selections from *Elements of Literature*, the novels *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Night*, the novella *Flowers for Algernon*, self-selected novels, and various non-fiction pieces.
5. Grading Policies:
 - a. Assignments should be turned in on time.
 - b. Partial credit may be given for a late assignment.
 - c. Projects should be turned in on time.
 - d. Projects and long-term assignments that are turned in late will lose one letter grade each day late.
 - e. Absent homework will be accepted as per policy in the Nagel handbook.
6. Grading Scale: same as the scale for secondary students in the Forest Hills District.
90-100% A 80-89% B 70-79% C 65-69-% D Below 65% F



7. Additional Information:

- a. All homework will be graded. Please contact me if the amount of reading or written homework appears to be inappropriate for your child.
- b. Several on-going extra credit opportunities are available for students. These include Book Recommendations; Truth is Stranger than Fiction News Stories, The Never Ending Novel and various writing contests.
- c. Students may purchase books from *Scholastic* each month. Please pay for your order by writing a check to *Tab* books. Most orders are back within two weeks.
- d. Books-Students may borrow books from the Honor Library in my classroom. They are responsible for replacing lost or damaged books. Students should cover the Literature textbook.
- e. Your child’s homework assignments and grades will be posted online in Progress Book. Grades will be posted daily. Extra credit will be posted at the end of each quarter.

7. Contact Information

- Kathy Kesler
- 474-5407 or 351-0650 (home)
- kathykesler@foresthills.edu
- nagel82@foresthills.edu

I look forward to sharing my love of reading with your child. I know that he/she will have a great year with us on 8-2! -Mrs. Kesler



Integrated Language Arts Syllabus Signature

Please sign and return to Mrs. Kesler.

Student Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature _____ Date: _____