



## 2014-2015 English 7 Course Syllabus

### Course Description

The 7th grade Language Arts curriculum at Mar Vista Academy is based on Common Core Standard. *SpringBoard*, the CollegeBoard’s official Pre-AP program, is our foundation. Reading, writing, speaking, listening, and collaborative strategies are used purposefully to build knowledge and skills and to help students become independent critical readers, writers, and thinkers. A yearlong thematic investigation of “CHOICES” drives reading, writing, and thinking tasks:

Unit	Texts	Embedded Assessments
Unit 1: The Choices We Make	Poetry, personal narratives, and myths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing &amp; revising a personal narrative</li> <li>• Creating an illustrated myth</li> </ul>
Unit 2: What Influences My Choices?	Advertisements, magazines, print ads, videos, articles, essays, speeches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing an expository essay &amp; participating in collaborative discussion;</li> <li>• Writing an argumentative essay</li> </ul>
Unit 3: Our Choices & Life’s Lessons	<u>Tangerine</u> by Edward Bloor, poetry, biography, autobiography, informational text, non-fiction text excerpts, speeches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing an literary analysis essay;</li> <li>• Creating a biographical presentation</li> </ul>
Unit 4: How We Choose to Act	Poetry, monologues, informational texts, film “Twelfth Night”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating and presenting a monologue</li> <li>• Performing a Shakespearean dialogue</li> </ul>

### Portfolio Requirement:

Students will keep a wide range of work in a classroom portfolio (hardcopy or electronic). This portfolio will include:

- **Embedded Assessments** that comprise all steps in the **writing process**; student **reflection** on process and product; teacher assessment; and student reflection on assessment.
- **Unit Reflections** that demonstrate development as a reader, writer, speaker, and/or listener.
- **Global revision and reflection** that reveals one’s growth as a writer
- Assignments that demonstrate a variety of **learning strategies**, various stages of the **writing process**, and reading, writing, speaking and listening skills.

### Vocabulary Journal /Personal Dictionary (Optional Requirement per Teacher):

Students will study **academic** and **personal** vocabulary words that directly connect to the Embedded Assessments and texts in each unit we study. SpringBoard sequences **academic** vocabulary words to build vocabulary knowledge. Academic vocabulary words are introduced, reinforced and refined throughout each unit and throughout the school year; students will document their progression towards mastery in their **Vocabulary Journal** and **Unit Reflections**.

### Daily- Required Materials:

- 3-Ring binder for all classes, with a divider/section devoted to English 7;
- At least FIVE sheets of notebook paper;
- 2 pencils, 2 pens;
- 1-3 highlighters of varying colors;
- CHARGED iPad in district-provided case;
- iPad stylus (Optional, but **HIGHLY recommended**)

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## Grading Policy

SpringBoard assignment grades and descriptors emulate CollegeBoard expectations:

### Grades assigned to coursework:

Grade	Descriptor
4	<b>Exemplary</b> Student work exceeds expectations as outlined in the rubric or task requirements.
3	<b>Proficient</b> Student work meets expectation as outlined in the rubric or task requirements.
2	<b>Emerging</b> Student work is <i>developing</i> into a product that meets expectation, <i>but is missing elements and/or requires some revision.</i>
1	<b>Incomplete</b> Student work is in the <i>beginning stages of developing</i> into a product that meets expectation, <i>but is missing key elements and/or requires extensive revision.</i>

### Course grades:

Categories	Weights
<b>Standards Mastery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Includes tests, essays, major projects, district performance tasks, district final exams, etc.</li></ul>	<b>60% of overall course grade</b>
<b>SpringBoard Embedded Assessments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All Embedded Assessments <b>must be completed</b> in order to PASS the class;</li><li>All Embedded Assessment scores lower than a "3" <b>must be revised to a proficient by end of each semester</b> (specific competency at each grade level required)</li></ul>	<b>20% of overall course grade</b>
<b>Standards Practice/Academic Enrichment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Includes classwork, homework, independent reading tasks, and student's class preparation/participation.</li></ul>	<b>20% of overall course grade</b>

### Note to Parents About Monitoring Grades:

You can monitor your child's progress through **Jupitergrades.com** and/or through their child's iPad using the **Jupiter Grades app icon**. Periodic emails will be sent home regarding progress; we strongly encourage you to provide a current email address to the school if we don't already have one on file.

### Academic Support for All Students:

We believe that all students can and will meet minimum academic competencies at Mar Vista Academy. To strive for this, every two weeks, students will be assessed on the skills and knowledge (concepts) taught in English 7 and an after school re-teaching/re-learning/re-assessing session will be provided to students who need additional support in meeting minimum competencies and to improve their academic grade in English 7.

In addition, because daily instruction is structured to increase students' reading, writing, and thinking skills that can be assessed on Embedded Assessments, **ALL Embedded Assessments are required for a passing grade in English 7 at Mar Vista Academy**. In order to ensure students can achieve this, periodic Saturday Academies structured around Embedded Assessment completion will be scheduled each quarter. Additional Saturday Academies to help students revise their graded Embedded Assessments to meet minimum competencies (Proficient or Exemplary scores) will also be scheduled.

Please refer to our school's website <http://mva.sweetwaterschools.org> for specific grade reporting dates and more information about after school academic assistance for students.