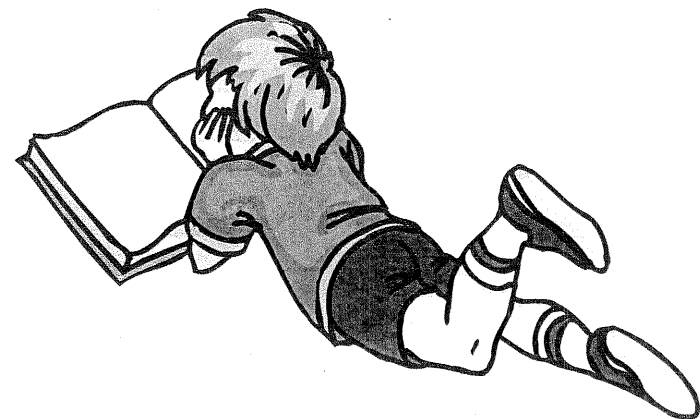
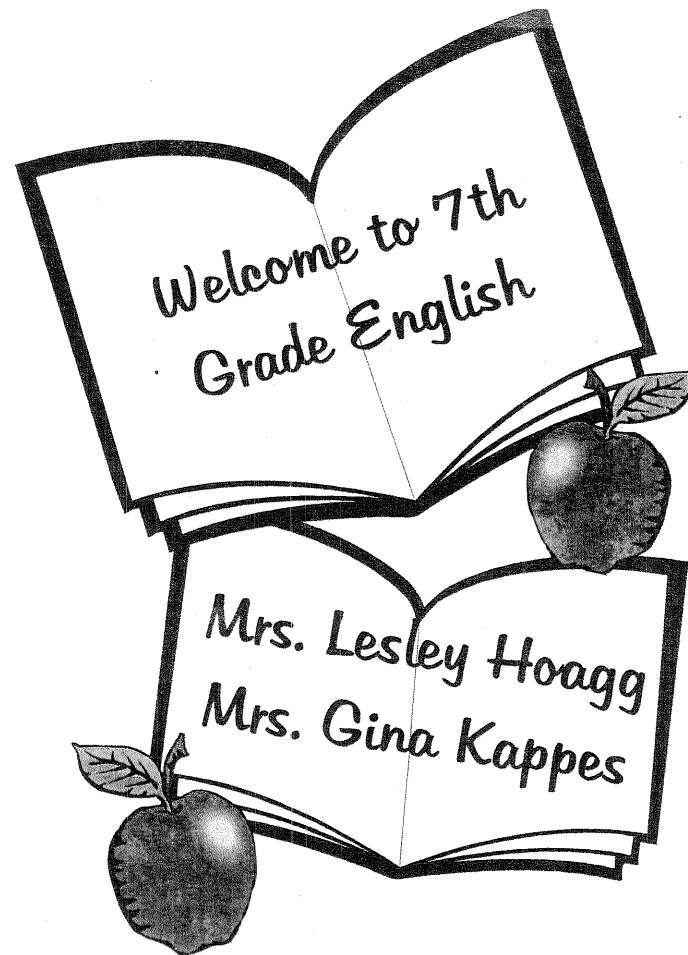


Help Your Teenager Succeed in School, Work

To succeed in school and work, teenagers need to know that they are capable of doing a good job. Teachers working with high school students report that the most important "school supply" a teenager can bring to school is a "Can Do" attitude. As a parent, you play a major role in building confidence in your children. Here are some ways to do that:

- **Be generous with praise**—Try to make five positive comments for each negative one. Don't be insincere, but look carefully for things your teen does right. Comment on these first—then approach the negative in a positive way.
- **Encourage "personal best"**—Help by encouraging them to do their "personal best" in school and at home. Remember: "personal best" does not mean perfect; learning is not the same as high grades; and children, like adults, must be free to make mistakes and learn from them.
- **Let your priorities show**—Your attitude toward school attendance, education, and involvement in the school makes a strong and lasting impression.
- **Keep skeletons in the closet**—If you want your child to succeed, don't provide such excuses as, "I was never any good in math either."
- **Show interest in schoolwork**—Talk about school each day. Ask to see classwork, *encourage* your teenager to discuss new ideas and defend his or her opinions. *Express* your pride in their expressed views and demonstrated skills. *Show* interest and appreciation.
- **Don't pressure your teen**—Pressure results from comparing one person with another. Inspire a young person to perform to his or her own "personal best." Have specific suggestions on how to do better:
 - Reading the assignment when it's given.
 - Keeping a list of new vocabulary
 - Proofreading material to catch errors, *before* writing a final draft.
 - Outlining a chapter to prepare for a class.
 - Reviewing notes before a test.
- **Help set goals**—At the beginning of each quarter or semester of the school year, ask your teenager to identify three or four goals. (You could settle for just one!) Put the goals where the teenager can refer to them often. (The refrigerator is a good spot.) Make sure goals are more specific than just "better grades."

(Provided by the American Federation of Teachers)



Course Information for English 7

Literature:

*Selections from The Reader's Choice - Course 2 The Giver
Stargirl Chains A Christmas Carol Independent Material*

Reading: *Reading comprehension is a strong component of 7th grade. Students will be asked to go beyond the obvious printed text, to clearly support their choices, to draw conclusions, and to make connections to their own lives and also between different genres.*

Writing: *Students will learn how to support their statements and develop their ideas in an organized format. Furthermore, a strong foundation in grammar will be stressed. Some essays will be written over the span of a week, while others will be written in one period - a timed situation in preparation for state exams. Students will also have opportunities to show their creative side and to refine and improve their skills.*

Homework: *Every attempt will be made to get the homework on the web; however, the most reliable and accurate place to check for assignments will be in your child's agenda book. Assignments turned in on time and done neatly and completely will receive the highest grade. Students will have one day to turn in late assignments - losing one homework grade each day it is late - and homework reviewed in class will not be accepted late. Long-term assignments that are handed in late lose ten points for each day late, up to five days, after which it will no longer be accepted.*

Supplies

All students are expected to keep a three-ring binder with two tabbed dividers, as well as plenty of looseleaf paper, pencils, and pens. Additionally, highlighters and small post-its are needed. A homework folder is recommended.

Examination Policy:

Advanced notice will be given before tests. If a student is legally absent, it is his or her responsibility to arrange a make-up at a mutually convenient time - within one week of the missed test.

Grading Policy:

Writing (essays, creative assignments): most counted twice

Tests: Counted twice / Quizzes: Counted once

Homework/Classwork: Worth 15% of total grade

Extra Help:

Mrs. Hoagg - Room 109 - Wednesdays and Thursdays

Contact info: lhoagg@northsalemschools.org

914-669-5414 x2136

Mrs. Kappes - Room 201 - Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Contact info: gkappes@northsalemschools.org

914-669-5414 x2160

