



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELAR GT Humanities

Christyl Dodd, M.Ed

[cdodd@ems-isd.net](mailto:cdodd@ems-isd.net)

Twitter: @christylteach

**Conference Period:** 6th Period (1:06-1:52)

**Tutoring Opportunities:** M-F before school and after school with notice

**Class Materials:**

- Two composition books, Highlighters, Pens, Pencils, Notebook Paper (additional materials may be required as needed).
- Available Classroom Library. *If a student needs a copy of a text, please contact teacher.*
- Canvas. Access to Canvas and Office365 tools is available to students through our [Single Sign-on Portal \(SSO\)](#). Students receive their SSO login during enrollment.

**Course Description:**

In this GT/Advanced Humanities English Language Arts and Reading course, students will develop intellectual character by pursuing a conceptual question for each unit in order to engage in complex thinking about advanced content. These units will entail independent research, collaborative problem solving, and a significant amount of reading to produce real-world products. Products will be presented in various forms for authentic audiences.

Prerequisites: Students must be identified as gifted/talented OR must have scored masters grade level (formerly Level III) on Reading STAAR for 6th or 7th grade.

**Course Goals:**

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

- Conduct independent research
- Problem solve collaboratively
- Apply classroom instruction to real world issues
- Read self-selected texts to develop critical thinking and reading skills.

**Student Evaluation:**

The grading system for this course is as follows:

- Grade averaged 60% Major 40% Minor
- Major grades – tests (including District Common Assessments, six weeks assessments, projects, final essays, research papers, presentations); minimum three per six weeks
- Minor grades – quizzes, daily assignments, journals; minimum four per six weeks
- Semester exams will count 1/7 of the semester grade
- A letter system (S, N, U) is used to report a student’s conduct based on proper/responsive conduct and citizenship
- Per Board Policy EIA (LOCAL), “The District shall permit a student who meets the criteria detailed in the grading guidelines a reasonable opportunity to redo an assignment or retake a test for which the student received a **failing** grade. This policy applies only to initial identified major grades and does not apply to daily assignments, quizzes,

six-week test, and semester final examinations. Upon reteach and retest, the new test, project, etc. recorded will be a high score of 70%.

- Official grades will be in Skyward only and can be accessed by students and parents through Family Access.

#### **Assignments, exams, expectations outside of the classroom:**

- Independent reading will be a significant part of the course.
- Students will study above grade-level texts.
- This course will be cognitively challenging in terms of creative, critical, and analytical thinking.
- Students will need to be highly motivated and be able to manage their own workload.
- Abstract and complex ideas and concepts will be explored in great depth from various lenses.
- Students will work both collaboratively and independently.
- Discussion and debate will occur regularly.
- Writing tasks will be above grade level.

#### **Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-Up Work:**

**Attendance:** Please see district attendance policy.

**Tardy policy:** 3 tardies will result in parent contact; 4+ tardies will result in an office referral

**Make-up Work Policy:** It is the student's responsibility to obtain make-up work after an absence. Students receive one make-up day per day they are absent plus one additional day to turn in make-up work. Example: 4 days absent = 5 make-up days. Previously assigned projects and assessments will be due/administered on the day you return from the absence.

#### **Classroom Expectations:**

- Students will abide by the Respect Agreement they create the first week of school. This agreement will foster a mutually (teacher and student) beneficial and safe learning environment.
- Students will be expected to follow all health and safety protocols in place at the campus.

#### **Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments**

1. Causes Worth Fighting For: historical fiction texts and short story writing
2. Censorship: fictional texts and literary analysis
3. Tomorrow's History: *The Physics of the Future* and podcast
4. Paving the Path to Progress: speeches and rhetorical analysis
5. THINK LAW!
6. Genius Hour: Problem/ Solution Project

#### **Academic Integrity:**

Academic integrity values the work of individuals regardless if it is another student's work, a researcher, or author. The pursuit of learning requires each student to be responsible for his or her academic work. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in our schools. Academic dishonesty, includes cheating, copying the work of another student, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during an examination. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty shall be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher or other supervising professional employee and considers written materials, observation, or information from students. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary and/or academic penalties. The teacher and campus administrator shall jointly determine such action.