



**Highland Middle School**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced ELAR/ On-Level ELAR**

**Stacy Daniels**

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**Conference Period: 10:55-11:42 (4<sup>th</sup> Period)**

**Tutoring Opportunities: Wednesday-Friday 7:45-8:15 am and Tuesday-Thursday 3:45-4:15 pm**

**Class Materials:**

- Binder, pencil or pen, folder, and notebook
- Lesson plans will be placed on Canvas upon request
- 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: 408021 – English Language Arts and Reading 8**

Provides written communication skills as the major focus for eighth grade language arts and reading students, including practice with narrative, descriptive, argumentative, and informative compositions using a process approach to writing. Reading and literary skills emphasized in eighth grade address critical and analytical thinking. Oral communication and study skills are applied through appropriate activities. Research skills are strengthened through varied activities.

**Course Goals:**

A central goal of the English language arts and reading (ELAR) department is to establish and support a consistent reading habit in the busy lives of students, which is a shared partnership between teachers, students, and parents. In ELAR classes, students will engage in both required and self-selected texts. Through both assigned and independent reading, students will continue to develop their confidence, build vocabulary, increase reading fluency and stamina, and improve their writing skills.

**Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:**

- Analyze how the author develops informational texts to support the main idea or argument.
- Make complex inferences within and between various texts, supporting those inferences with relevant textual evidence.
- Determine how the author's use of literary techniques and figurative language contributes to the meaning of the text.
- Respond to various genres of texts using literary analysis.
- Write skillfully crafted expository essays with a sustained focus, substantial development, and an organized structure that clearly shows the relationship among ideas.
- Revise drafts to improve the effectiveness of sentences, strengthen the development of ideas by adding or deleting information, improve the progression of ideas, & ensure that word choice is appropriate, and point of view is consistent.

**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
- 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%.

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

- Students will be expected to read books of their choice in and out of class and be prepared to participate in discussions.
- Students will be expected to complete literary analysis of their independent reading choices, as well as those that are read in class together.
- Students should read at least 10-15 minutes nightly from a book of their choice.
- Students will only have homework if they did not complete an assignment that was intended to be completed during class time. This does not include nightly reading, as that is an expectation.
- If a student does not turn in an assignment, it will be marked in Skyward as “Missing” and a grade of 0 will be entered. If an assignment grade has an asterisk or is blank, it means I have not entered the grade yet. Students can turn in work up to 4 school days after the date it is due. For example, if an assignment is due Monday, students have until Friday to turn in the assignment.

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

- Students are allowed an equal number of days absent plus one day to complete all missed assignments.
- When students return, they can pick up any handouts from “While you were away” bucket. Assignments may also be posted to Canvas/OneNote. Students can ask questions before or after class, during tutorials, or via email.
- Students will be provided a copy of any notes missed on the day they return to copy.
- Students can make up tests during tutorials or letting me know when they can come in to make it up.
- Students who are tardy need to come in, get supplies, and not interrupt the class. Repeated tardiness will follow the campus tardy policy.

**Classroom Expectations:**

- Students are expected to come to class prepared with materials and ready to participate in class discussions and complete their group and independent work.
- Students are expected to treat the teacher and their peers with respect
- Students are expected to

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

- **1<sup>st</sup> Six Weeks-** Author's Purpose (Craft), Short Stories and Literary Texts, Latin roots, complex sentences and begin writing short constructed responses to literature.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Six Weeks-** Independently reading more complex texts, analyze Plot, analyze character motivation, Novel Studies of student choice, continue Latin roots, Literary Essay, work on revising written work.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Six Weeks-** creating personal connections to literature, synthesize information from a variety of sources, understanding the power of literacy through inquiry, reading, writing, and research, understanding prepositions, prepositional phrases, and verb tense.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks-** Historical fiction, extended constructed response on author's craft, characters, and theme, using semi-colons, colons, and parenthesis correctly. Analyzing how the setting influences the characters, the plot, and the setting.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks-** multiple genres (fiction, poetry, non-fiction, literary non-fiction, and multi-modal digital texts), Extended constructed responses (essay) across genres. Respond to reading through writing by citing textual evidence. Use Reading and Writing STAAR strategies for the appropriate questions and writing prompts.
- **6<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks-** Multi-genre research project

### **Academic Integrity: Update from GRH**

- 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.

### **Instructional Materials: If needed for specialized classes**

- Students will be checking out library books as needed and will be allowed to take them home and check out replacements as they need.
- Once students given an orientation of the classroom library, they will be allowed to check out and return books as needed. I am currently scanning books into book source, I just ask that students keep up with the books and return them when completed so others might enjoy the books as well.