



8th Grade English Language Arts Advanced Humanities 2022-2023

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Remind is recommended

Conference Period: 1st period

Tutoring Opportunities:

3:45-4:05 pm Tues. Wed. Thurs.

7:45-8:15 am Friday Only

Posted on door As Well

Class Supplies Needed:

2 Wide Ruled Lined Composition Notebooks 1 for each semester

1 Package of wide ruled loose-leaf notebook paper specifically for this course given to the classroom supply.

Class Materials:

- Canvas (tutorials provided in class on using this tool)
- Office 365 (Microsoft Office, Excel, Sway, OneNote, etc.)
- Binder with paper and pencil daily
- Novels varying per 6 weeks
- Composition Notebooks for each semester

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 the ELA Humanities course for GT and Advanced Literature, Language, and Composition learners, the students will synthesize and connect their understanding from above-grade level, classical and contemporary texts including primary historical documents, philosophical works, supreme court majority and dissent opinions, speeches, novels, poetry, literary non-fiction, art with accompanying commentary, and music with lyrics. This course will employ a continuous read/write/discuss cycle with a predominance of exploration through independent reading to produce an advanced level product each six weeks. There is a significant amount of reading in this course.

Course Goals: Subject to Change as District Dictates

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

- develop and sustain foundational language skills: listening, speaking, discussion, and thinking—oral language.
- recognize and analyze genre-specific characteristics, structures, and purposes within and across increasingly complex traditional, contemporary, classical, and diverse texts.
- produce complex, multi-structured sentences to create narrative, argumentative, expository, etc. texts throughout the year.

- engage collaboratively to research, formulate questions, and synthesize knowledge gained through multiple texts.
- interact and create inferences from poetry and drama by analyzing key details.
- embed properly cited evidence to support their thinking.

Student Evaluation:

The grading system for this course is as follows:

- Middle School (on-level and Advanced) • 60% Major • 40% Minor
- High School (on-level and Advanced (Level II)) • 60% Major • 40% Minor
- HS/MS AP • 70% Major • 30% Minor
- Major grades – tests (including District Common Assessments, projects, final essays, research papers, presentations); minimum three per six weeks
- Minor grades – quizzes, daily assignments, journals; minimum four per six weeks
- Each six weeks will count as 1/3 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 and quizzes. 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 student and parent through Family Access.

Assignments, exams, expectations inside and 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 many lenses.
- Students will work both collaboratively and independently.
- Discussion and debate will occur regularly.
- Writing tasks will be above grade level.

Test Prep:

Advanced classes integrate SAT test prep strategies from Khan Academy as it fits into the curriculum. Students will engage with tips, strategies, and practice questions and study how the SAT is formulated for Reading and Writing.

Students on some occasions will work on SAT test prep strategies from Khan Academy throughout the year as it fits into the curriculum. This will expose students to highly rigorous questions from both the Reading and Writing sections that they may see on tests like the SAT, ACT, TSI, or other certification exams.

Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-Up Work:

Please see district attendance policy.

Tardy policy: 3 tardies will result in parent contact; Additional tardies will result in consequences from the front office.

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 be expected to regularly work with other students to collaborate on projects or have discussions. Students will be expected to make presentations, debate, and participate in class discussions regularly. Students will be expected to turn work in on time.

Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments (subject to change as district mandates)

Unit 1: Freedom (Primary Source Documents)

Unit 2: Equality (Multi-Genre and Self-Selected Novels)

Unit 3: Justice (Multi-Genre and Self-Selected Novels)

Unit 4: Social Issues (Multi-Genre and Book Club Novels)

Unit 5: Conflict (Argumentative and Non-Fiction)

Unit 6: Law & Government (Research and Genius Hour)

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.