

## Grade 8 English Language Arts

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**Conference Period:** 10:04am-10:51am

**Tutoring Opportunities:** Thursdays 3:45pm to 4:15pm

### **Class Materials:**

- If a student needs a copy of a text, please contact the teacher
- Available classroom libraries
- 1 composition journal
- 1 folder with prongs
- Highlighters, Post It Notes, Pen/pencils, and other materials throughout the school year
- Occasional 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:**

Provides written communication skills as the major focus for eighth grade language arts students, including practice with narrative, descriptive, persuasive, 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:**

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

- Students will increase the volume of their reading
- Students will increase the complexity of their reading
- Students will develop an understanding of multiple genres
- Students will write about something they know, care a lot about, and write for real reasons

### **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
- 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, 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 student and parent through Family Access.

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

Students are expected to read for at least 15 minutes every night. They will occasionally have projects that will require time outside of the classroom to complete, please be aware of due dates. Students may also have assignments that are due in Canvas, so they will need to plan on having access technology. If technology is not available at home, students will need to plan on coming to tutorials before or after school.

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

**Attendance:** Students are expected to be in class in-person every day on time.

**Late Work:** Students should not have late work, but if they do, we will follow the districts grading policy. Any work that is over 3 days late will not be accepted.

**Make-Up Work:** Students are expected to gather their own missing work. Students can come in before school during tutorials to get the assignments. If a student is absent when a project, assignment, or test is given student must turn in their assignment upon their return to school.

### **Classroom Expectations:**

My expectations are summed up with the acronym “BE WEIRD”

- Willing to learn
- Engaged in the lesson
- Not Interrupting other’s learning
- Ready with supplies
- Discussing to understand

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

- Students will focus on reading complex texts including novels, short stories, nonfiction, poetry, and drama.
- Students will work on multiple modes of writing including fiction, informational, poetry, literary analysis, and argument.
- Students will have self-selected novels to promote independent reading and foster a love of reading.

### **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.