



## Grade 8 English Language Arts

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**Conference Period:** 5th Period 11:42-12:28

**Tutoring Opportunities:** Tuesday-Friday 7:45-8:15

### **Class Materials:**

- Students will be provided with class novels to read.
- 2 composition notebooks, pocket folder with brads/prongs, highlighter, pen/pencil, and other materials as required throughout the school year.

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; 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%.

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

The expectation is that students read for at least 15 minutes each night, whether from a classroom novel or library book. Students will have a weekly Article of the Week, which will require a one-page written reflection. A guideline will be provided for students to follow, when writing the weekly reflection. Students will occasionally have projects that will necessitate time outside of the classroom to complete. There will be assignments due in Canvas, therefore students should make plans to have access to technology. If technology is not available at home, students will need to attend tutorials, so assignments may be completed.

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

Attendance: Students are expected to be in class every day, on time.

Late Work: Students should not have late work, if time is used wisely in class. However, if students do have late work, the District Grading Policy will be followed. Any work that is over 3 days late, will not be accepted, unless prior arrangements with the teacher and student have been made.

Make-Up Work: Students are expected to collect missing assignments, from the teacher or appropriate location. Students may come to tutorials to get the assignments or ask questions. Students will be given the number of days absent plus one day, to complete make-up work.

**Classroom Expectations:**

- Be on time
- Come to class prepared
- Be respectful
- Be kind

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

- Students will focus on reading complex texts including novels short stories, nonfiction, poetry, and dramas.
- 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.