



MARINE CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL
AS MUSTANGS, WE... ENTER TO GROW, ENGAGE WITH GRIT, & LEAD WITH POWER
#HORSEPOWER

8th Grade English Language Arts and Reading

Kathryn Baker

kbaker03@ems-isd.net

Remind 101

Conference Period: M-F 10:53-11:38

Tutoring Opportunities: Tutoring will be available before school by appointment.

Class Materials:

- Pencils
- Pens (blue, black, and another color)
- Colored pencils
- Highlighters
- Markers
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Composition notebook
- Pocket folder with brads
- Notebook paper
- Hand Sanitizer
- Facial Tissue (2 or more boxes)

Digital tools and other resources are available on 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:

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:

- Conduct independent research
- Problem-solve collaboratively
- Produces real-world products via 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 student and parent through Family Access.

Assignments, exams, expectations outside of the classroom:

Students are expected to actively participate in class. This means actively listening, taking notes, asking questions, and making contributions to classroom discussions. In order for students to be prepared for class, I suggest students look over their notes. Study habits should be practiced beyond our school campus. If assignments are not completed at school by due date, students should take the assignment home to finish and bring back to school the next school day.

Attendance/Tardy Policy/Make-Up Work:

Attendance:

Remote Learners: In order to be counted present in each class, every day, you have to communicate with your teacher for that class period every day. If you are counted absent, you will then need to communicate with the MCMS attendance office. Remember that in order to avoid truancy you must be present.

Attendance during and/or for remote learning means contacting **EACH** of your teachers each day. This can be:

- Logging into Canvas and doing your assignment, which is the preferred method
- Emailing your teacher
- Responding to an email from your teacher
- Logging into a TEAMS meeting with your teacher

Attendance **DOES NOT** mean:

- Turning in all assignments on one day of the week and then having no contact with your teacher afterward.

Tardy Policy: Tardiness disrupts the classroom and negatively affects the learning environment. Students should arrive punctually to class. Students are allowed an adequate passing period to travel from one class to the next. Excessive unexcused tardies will result in parent/guardian contact or be addressed by administration.

Make-Up Work: 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 should attend school daily and arrive to class on time and prepared for the day.
- Assignments should be completed on time.
- Students are expected to actively participate in partner and group work by:
 - Giving thoughts and feedback
 - Staying on task at all times
 - Respecting others and being willing to compromise

- Students are expected to respect themselves and others:
 - Student to Student
 - Student to Teacher
 - Teacher to Student

Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

- Unit 1: Launching Workshop: Understanding Author's Craft in Literary Texts
- Unit 2: The Literary Essay: Analyzing Craft and Theme
Promoting Independent Reading: Navigating the Complexities of a Text
- Unit 3: The Power of Literacy: Reading, Writing, Inquiry, Research
- Unit 4: Historical Fiction: Understanding the Past to Shape a Better Future
- Unit 5: Putting it All Together: Preparing for High-Stakes Testing
- Unit 6: Multi-Genre Research Project: Embracing Complexity, Making Connections

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.

I have read this document and will abide by its contents.

Student (printed)

Student (signature)

Parent/Guardian (printed)

Parent/Guardian (signature)

Parental/Guardian Contact Information

Mailing Address:

Email Address:

Phone Number(s):

