

Syllabus Grade 8 Language Arts Mrs. Metzler and Mrs. Galloway

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Welcome to your 8th grade school year! We hope you are as excited as we are for the learning that will take place this year! Students are expected to come to class everyday prepared to learn with the proper materials, a positive attitude, and a willingness to try new things!

We will work to provide you with an engaging learning environment. Let's work together to help everyone experience success and learn something new every day!

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Language Arts course includes reading, writing, listening, speaking, and researching skills that help students use information from books, technology, and observation. In addition the course incorporates speaking and comprehension skills, while the writing section of the course includes written comprehension, handwriting, grammar, vocabulary, and spelling skills.

COURSE CONTENT STANDARDS/OBJECTIVES

A general goal for all of our students is for each young person to be confident in both their written and oral communication, and for them to become lifelong scholars.

By the end of the year students will be able to:

- Experience success in Language Arts
- Use writing skills to communicate effectively in a variety of ways
- Use technology to gather knowledge and demonstrate knowledge learned
- Read a piece of literature and give a written and/or oral reaction
- Recognize and utilize all eight parts of speech
- Speak and write clearly to a group without grammatical errors
- Work successfully in groups of various sizes
- Improve over-all basic skills
- Recognize and discuss the various genres of literature
- Apply different styles of writing based on the purpose and audience
- Utilize Microsoft Word, Moviemaker, Powerpoint and other presentation software effectively
- Organize and compose a research paper

STUDENT ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION

- Teacher made tests
- Various group activities/assignments
- Projects
- Research paper
- Journals
- Oral presentations
- Daily work, quizzes, homework
- Writing exercises
- Activity appropriate reproducibles

GRADING

50% Tests/Projects

35% Homework

15% Participation

CORRECTING WORK

You have the opportunity to improve your grade on most assignments if you are unhappy with the score you received. You should attach corrections to the original assignment or make corrections in a different color within 1 week. You can earn up to full credit on all corrected assignments.

You are allowed to use your homework and notes when taking some tests and quizzes. Take good notes and make corrections on your homework. Tests can be retaken within 1 week of the original test date. You must schedule an appointment with Mrs. Galloway or Mrs. Metzler to discuss the test and then retake a modified test. The 2 test scores will be averaged for a final grade. Projects can also be resubmitted; the 2 project scores will be averaged for a final grade.

LATE WORK

All homework must be turned in on time to receive maximum credit. A "Late Slip" must be completed in order for late work to be graded.

Short Term Assignments:

- ✓ Work turned in within one week will have 50% deducted from the grade earned.
- ✓ Work turned in after one week will receive 10% of the grade earned.

Long Term Assignments:

- ✓ Work turned in 1 day late will have 10% deducted from the grade earned.
- ✓ 2 days late will have 20% deducted from the grade earned.
- ✓ 3 days late will have 30% deducted from the grade earned.
- ✓ 4 days late will have 40% deducted from the grade earned.
- ✓ 5 days late will have 50% deducted from the grade earned.
- ✓ Work turned in after 5 days will receive 10% of the grade earned.

Work may be turned in until the end of the unit.

ABSENT WORK

It is important to be at school. If you are absent, it is YOUR responsibility to ask Mrs. Metzler or Mrs. Galloway or another student what you have missed, get notes from peers, and make up work after school; NOT during class time. When turning in assignments that you have missed because of an absence, fill out a "Late Slip" and write ABSENT as the reason the assignment was late. You have 2 days to turn in missing work for full credit for every 1 day you are absent (up to one week) unless special arrangements have been made.

Please also check out the 8th grade Language Arts web page! If you are absent or have questions about class, check out YOUR teacher's web page. Both Mrs. Galloway and Mrs. Metzler update their websites with current class information. Assignments and links to class materials will be posted.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- ✓ Students are expected to be prepared for class and to bring all necessary supplies each day. You will not be allowed back to your locker, and repeatedly forgetting things will impact your participation grade and will also result in infractions.
- ✓ Students are expected to be on time to class and seated, ready to listen.
- ✓ Students are expected to review/work a little each night in order to be prepared for tests, quizzes, and projects.
- ✓ Students are expected to participate. Without class participation, class would be boring! Please be respectful to classmates and the teacher at all times during discussions and class. Treat others how you would want to be treated.
- ✓ Students are expected to listen, not to talk, when the teacher is talking.
- ✓ Students are expected to ask for help when it is needed! It is your job to communicate with the teacher when you need help!
- ✓ Students are expected to use ALL class time wisely! Work time is a privilege given to you so that you can start your work and ask for help right away when needed. Work time is NOT a time to socialize or work on home work from other classes! Improper use of work time will result in infractions.
- ✓ Students are expected to work honestly. Cheating of any kind, including plagiarism, is not tolerated and will result in a zero for a grade.
- ✓ If you are caught writing a note to a friend during class time, the note will be taken away from you and sent home.
- ✓ If your behavior is getting in the way of your learning or the learning of others, we will use reminders, redirects, refocus time, detentions, phone calls home, student meetings, and parent meetings to help get you back on track.

Thank You!

We are looking forward to a great year of learning. Thank you for taking the time to read this and for being involved in the success of our class. Mrs. Metzler and Mrs. Galloway are available before and after school for extra help to ensure the success of all students. Please feel free to call or email us if you have any questions or concerns.

ON-LINE RESOURCES

The 8th grade teachers are going to implement two web resources called Turnitin.com and epals.com. The programs provide new and exciting opportunities for collaboration between students in our school and other schools, journaling, getting feedback on writing, tracking writing progress, and many others. The teachers have used the programs last year and found them to be creative and effective learning tools.

Turnitin.com is a web based resource that features a check for plagiarism, a grammar check, and allows for more effective and timely feedback for student papers. There are several safety features which allow for management and collaboration from teachers to student, as well as student to student. Through epals.com students will get a monitored email account that will be used to turn papers into turnitin.com and may be used to correspond with students in other schools.

Our district is striving to work and implement 21st century skills in our students and these websites will be a step in that direction. All the students will be assigned an access code number which will activate an account in order to be able to save and then store and collaborate on student work. As for the teachers, it frees us up to really look at content and make helpful suggestions to redirect and improve student writing and communication.

If you would like more information, the following links include information about Internet safety tips and the district policies regarding appropriate use of the network/computers:

<http://www.epals.com/groups/support/pages/internet-safety-tips.aspx>

http://www.hasd.org/District/Policies/05000Students/5075_Internet_Safety.pdf

http://www.hasd.org/District/Policies/05000Students/5062_Student_Use_of_the_Internet.pdf

In addition, the following links provide information regarding student rights with the services:

<http://www.epals.com/groups/about/pages/terms-of-use.aspx>

http://turnitin.com/static/footnote/usage_policy.html

If using these online tools is a problem, please let us know. We are hoping to begin using the web-based resources in the next few weeks. Please check and sign below so we can begin the process of getting students account information.

Language Arts

Parent and student signature is due back to your language teacher by Thursday, September 8th.

I have read and understand the opportunities and requirements described in the Language Arts syllabus.

Yes, I give permission for my son/daughter to receive an account from turnitin.com and epals.com to be used in language arts, reading, social studies, and computer classes.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

Parent Email: _____

Parent Phone Number(s): _____