

ENGLISH



Course Description

Welcome to English 8. Our goal for the year is to learn to read and think as writers and to look at texts through a writer's eye. We will be reading and writing narratives (fiction and non-fiction), informational, and argumentative texts. You will also complete a co-curricular research project with your science teacher. You will have the opportunity to read engaging, thought-provoking texts and short stories you won't want to put down. By

examining these exemplary texts, you will build your skills as a writer and be able to communicate your ideas effectively. We will also spend time building your vocabulary and technology skills. Discussion, both speaking and listening, as well as working in collaboration with others will play a large role in class and help to prepare you for high school. I look forward to spending the year learning with you!

CLASS EXPECTATIONS



Be kind & be respectful.



Be on time & be prepared.



Ask permission to leave your seat.



Raise your hand and wait to be called on before speaking.



Follow directions the first time they are given.

All school rules also apply.

Homework

Homework is not busywork. It is necessary for you to complete in order to participate in class the next day or to develop important skills. A monthly calendar of homework assignments will be posted on my website to help you keep track of your assignments. If you choose not to complete the assigned work, you are missing out on the opportunity to learn and grow. In the past, students who didn't complete homework* struggled to pass English, while students who

regularly completed homework succeeded. Homework assignments may include, but are not limited to:

- Independent reading
- Drafting, revising, and writing polished pieces of writing
- Vocabulary activities
- Responding to writing prompts
- Bellringers
- Grammar Activities
- Interactive Notebook

*Late/Missing Work policy on next page

Classroom Policies & Procedures

Entering Class: Enter calmly and quickly go to your assigned seat. Do not be tardy. Take out homework that is due and place on your desk. Begin working on the posted bellringer. This is a timed five-minute activity.

Turning in Homework:

*Always write your first and last name and your class period.

*Must be on clean paper. This means no folded, crinkled, or damaged paper will be accepted. If there are any drawings, sketches, unnecessary signatures, nicknames, etc. on your paper it will not be accepted.

*Work must be written neatly and legibly. If I cannot read it, I cannot grade it.

*Work must be **COMPLETED**. 100%! If it is not, use your late or missing option – explained below. Use this wisely! **Work is considered late once it is collected and clipped by the teacher.**

***LATE WORK:** You are allowed to turn in ONE late assignment per marking period. You have 24 hours to hand in your late assignment into me.

Larger Implications: In the past, some scholars have asked for make-up work to help boost failing grades caused by missed assignments. This will not be available. You are allowed up to ONE missing assignment per quarter that you may make-up. It must be turned in 2 weeks before the end of the quarter.

I do not give out extra credit.

Bathroom Usage: This should be done before class begins. You may go during class **ONLY** if it is an emergency. You will need to fill out a pass in your planner. Once I sign it, you may go. Only one person at a time may leave.

Electronic Devices: Electronics should not be seen or heard in the classroom. Use of device is with teacher permission only. Laptop use follows school policy.

Exiting Class: In the last 3 minutes of class, you will wrap up what you are working and return materials to the appropriate locations. No loitering at door. The teacher dismisses you.

Absences: If you are absent, it is your responsibility to make up missed assignments. You will receive a "While You Were Out" note with any necessary handouts attached. Appropriate due dates will be set.

Revise & Redo: Many assignments, especially your writing pieces, will require multiple attempts. An assignment is not considered complete and will not be graded until it meets the checklist criteria for that assignment and assuming you have not exhausted your late or missing work options.

Infraction Notice: If you receive one, read it, sign it, correct behavior, get back to work, and see teacher after class.

If You Finish Early: Double check work. Organize folder. Work on interactive notebook. Enjoy your free reading book. Work on homework.

DAILY EXPECTATIONS

1. Come to class with all necessary materials. This includes a free reading book.
2. Bring homework 100% completed with full name and class period at top of page.
3. Bring an attitude of achievement and a commitment to improving writing.
4. Give 100%!
5. Be receptive to written and oral feedback.
6. Be respectful of yourself, others, and the learning environment.



You will need the following:

- ✓ Notebook
- ✓ Sharpened pencils
- ✓ Highlighters
- ✓ Colored Pencils
 - ✓ Blue or black pen
 - ✓ Red pen or red pencil
- ✓ 2-pocket folder for handouts & assignments
- ✓ Index cards for 3rd quarter research project
- ✓ A positive attitude, a sense of humor, and an open mind!

Positive & Negative Consequences

Meeting classroom expectations and behaving appropriately in class helps to create a learning environment where you and your classmates feel welcome, safe, and respected.

If you choose to meet the classroom expectations, you will receive a **positive consequence**, such as praise from teacher, classmates, administration, a positive note or phone call home, special privileges, and opportunities for extra credit.

If you choose not to meet the classroom expectations, you will receive a **negative consequence**, such as a verbal warning, a change of seat, a student/teacher conference, a phone call home, a detention, a parent/guardian team meeting, and referral for severe infractions of school rules.



*"Words are sacred.
They deserve respect.
If you get the right ones,
in the right order,
you can nudge the
world a little."*

- Tom Stoppard