

ENGLISH 8



Course Description

Welcome to English. Our goal for the year is to learn to read and think as writers, to look at texts through a writer's eye. We will be reading and writing narratives, informational, and argumentative texts. You will have the opportunity to read engaging, thought-provoking texts and novels 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 the college and career world. 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.

Class Expectations

You must participate in your learning. It is necessary for you to complete assignments in order to participate in class or to develop important skills. You can't just tune in randomly and expect to be able to understand what's happening. English is a recursive process. Check Power School often to help you keep track of your assignments. Students should be familiar with their log in and utilize it often! It's such a great tool. If you choose not to complete the assigned work, you are missing out on the opportunity to learn and grow.

Assignments may include, but are not limited to:

- Independent reading
- Drafting, revising, and writing polished pieces of writing
- Vocabulary activities
- Grammar activities

Classroom Policies, Procedures, & Grading

Entering Class: Find your seat, and begin working on the warm-up posted on the board.

Restroom Usage: Students will use their agenda for a bathroom pass if it's an emergency. Please use the restroom before or after class.

Food & Phones: Food and drink are not permitted outside of the cafeteria for sanitary reasons (unless the teacher gives specific allowances.) Phones should not be seen or heard in the classroom but kept off and in your locker. Smart watches aren't to be used to communicate either. Earbuds should not be in use unless specific directions allowing them are given.

Exiting Class: In the last five minutes of class, you will wrap up what you are working on and return materials to the appropriate locations. The teacher, not the bell, dismisses you upon completion of these tasks.

Absences: If you are absent, it is your responsibility to make up missed assignments. Again, check Canvas and Power School.

Revise & Redo: Many assignments, especially our 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. If you think you can do better, just ASK me if you can fix it! Showing initiative goes a long way.

Late Work Policy: Depending on the assignment, teacher will take off points each day the assignment is turned in late. However, assignments due before the interim will NOT be allowed to be turned in AFTER the interim. So, there is a mid-way deadline for assignments due during first half of the quarter. Teacher will give a one-week notice when this deadline is due.

YOU WILL NEED:

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- A CHARGED chromebook
- A composition notebook to keep in the classroom
- Writing utensils (pens, pencils, highlighter)
- A set of colored pencils, BOTTLE glue, scissors
- Earbuds/headphones
- A positive attitude, a sense of humor, & 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, lunch in the courtyard, a positive note or phone call home, special privileges/activities, and awards.

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 lunch detention, a parent/guardian meeting, and for severe infractions of school rules, a referral.