**8th Grade English Language Arts**

***Course Summary ~ School Supplies ~ Grading Policy ~ Classroom Expectations***

**Course Summary**

This 8th Grade English Language Arts class is literature and writing based. Some of the famous literary authors we will read include Thanhha Lai, Harper Lee, Shelley Tougas, and Michael Pollan. In addition, we will read, analyze and discuss great works of literature such as poetry, informational text, personal memoir, and novels. Students will respond to our reading through conversation, writing (short and extended responses), projects, oral presentations, and exams. Students will also be expected to read independently for homework assignments and book projects.

**School Supplies:**

* 3 ring binder (one section in main binder)
* Lined (loose-leaf) paper
* 2- pens
* 2- pencils
* Independent reading book (see our class library, school library or public library)
* 1- Two-pocket folder used only for ELA

**Grading Policy:**

**Homework: 10%**

**Classwork: 35%**

**Tests/Quizzes/Projects (Essays): 45%**

**Citizenship (behavior, effort, organization, participation, & preparedness):10%**

**Classroom Expectations and Rules**

***Summer Reading Projects (Extra Credit)***

All extra credit **summer reading assignments** are due September 15,2023 No late projects will be accepted.

***Book Projects***

Quarterly Book Projects are due on the assigned day. Students should use their independent reading books for their quarterly Book Projects. Students should have their reading books in class every Friday (Reading Workshop Day). You will lose ten points per day if your project is late.

***Electronics / Cell phones***

Chromebooks should be brought to school, fully charged each day. Cell phones are to be kept **in lockers** throughout the school day.

***The beginning of class***

When class time begins, you should already be…

* Seated at your desk
* Copying your homework into your planner
* Beginning the Do Now activity ~ *Content Objectives must be written in daily notes.*

***Absences***

If you miss a day of school, it is **your responsibility** to make up any work from that day. You may see me before the school day (homebase), during your supervisory / lunch period, or at the end of the day to get the ELA work that you missed.

***Hats/Jackets/Food/Drinks***—No hats or outerwear are to be worn in the classroom. No food or drinks in the classroom. Let’s keep our work space clean.

***Bathroom procedures***—There are no bathroom passes allowed during the **first or last ten minutes** of class. Please **take a pass and sign out** when you leave the classroom.

**Always ask questions and come for extra help!**

**8th Grade ELA → Curriculum Outline**

**Unit I:**

“Personal Narrative/ Memoir”

* Memoir/Personal Narrative: Excerpts from a variety of text.
* Written Assignment: Personal Narrative (Essay)

**Unit II:**

“Finding Home”

* *Inside Out and Back Again,* by Thanhha Lai (novel written in verse)
* Written Assignment: Poetry Writing

**Unit III:**

“Taking a Stand”

* *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee
* Written Assignment: Argumentative Essay

**Unit III:**

“Research- Understanding Perspectives”

* *Little Rock Girl: 1957,* by Shelley Tougas
* Written Assignment: Research Paper

**Unit IV:**

“Decision Making and Forming Positions”

* *The Omnivore’s Dilemma,* by Michael Pollan
* Written Assignment: Position Paper/Project

**End of Year Mini-Unit:**

* Year-End Reflection / Preparing for High School