

8th Grade English Language Arts

Mrs. O'Neill
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Course Description

Welcome to 8th grade English language arts (ELA)! This year you will all face many academic and social challenges. We will use the New York State Common Core standards as guidelines to help improve your reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. The goal of this course is to prepare you for high school. Therefore, you will be reading various forms of literature, including books, short stories, poems, articles, and plays. Additionally, you will learn about and complete many writing assignments including, essays, poems, projects, and letters.

Required Supplies

(When we return to the building)

- A 3 Ring Binder
- Loose Leaf Paper
- Blue or Black Pens
- Pencils
- A Pocket Folder

Optional Supplies

- Post-It Notes
- Highlighters
- Tissues (to be donated to class)
- Package of Pencils (to be donated to class)

Grading

You will earn grades based on your reading and writing classwork, assessments, papers, and projects. Your grades are all based on a total points system.

Want to know what your grade is?

Have your parents sign up for parent portal and you will have access to your grades as soon as they are updated in my gradebook!

Independent Reading

Each quarter you will be expected to read a minimum of 250 pages of independent reading. These pages must come from grade level materials (books, magazines, graphic novels, etc.) and will be tracked on a reading log that will remain in your binder. There are NO major projects that go along with your independent reading. Independent reading grades will come from meeting your quarterly page requirement and from our weekly conferences, where I will assess your progress and comprehension of whatever you are reading.

Daily Procedures

(While we are practicing remote learning)

Each day you will sign in to our daily class Google Meet. Your microphone should be turned OFF.

Do Now: When you get into the meet, I will have a Do Now Posted. You will have 3-5 minutes to complete this task and then wait while I take...

Attendance: Attendance will be taken during the first 3-5 minutes of class. If for ANY reason you enter class later than this you must leave a comment in the Google Meet with your name and the time you entered class. If you forget to do this you will be marked absent.

Mini-Lesson: I will spend the next 5-15 minutes teaching a lesson on the skill, concept, or topic you will be focusing on that day.

Independent Practice: Then I will explain the assignment that you are expected to complete by the end of the day.

Wrap Up: Once all of this is finished I will say goodbye and you will complete the assignment on your own.

Questions: If you have questions about the assignment I will remain in the Google Meet until the period is over. After that you can email me with any questions you may have regarding the assignment.

"You get what you give. What you put into things is what you get out of them."

-Jennifer Lopez

If You Are Absent

If you are absent it is up to you to read over the lesson that will be posted in Google Classroom and complete the assignment for the day ON YOUR OWN. If you have any questions you can email me and I will get back to you before the day is over.

Behavior

All students are expected to be both physically and mentally prepared for class (be it online or in person). In order to make ELA a fun and successful learning environment, students need to follow the following rules:

- RESPECT
- STOP, COLLABORATE, & LISTEN
- DON'T STOP BELIEVING
- ARE YOU READY FOR IT?
- WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

If you do not follow these rules, you may receive a verbal warning, a phone call home, or a written referral to the assistant principal.

Homework

1. Review this Course Contract with your parent(s)/guardian(s) and email me with any questions you may have.
2. Use the link below to access and complete the following forms: the code of conduct, attendance agreement, emergency contact form, computer user agreement, and photo/video student work declination form.

<https://sites.google.com/wcsdny.org/vwstudentforms/home>