

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

- A 3 Ring Binder
- Loose Leaf Paper
- Blue or Black Pens
- Package of Pencils (to be donated to class)
- A Pocket Folder
- \$10 for Scope Magazine Subscription

Optional Supplies

- Post-It Notes
- Highlighters
- Tissues (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

Every 10 weeks 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

Each day what we do in class will be different, but the schedule of the period will remain the same.

Do Now: Every days when you enter the room a Do Now will be posted on the board. You are expected to enter the room, complete the Do Now, and then sit quietly and wait for instructions.

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

Class Work: At this point you will either work alone, with a partner, or in small groups to complete an assignment that requires you to use the skill taught in the mini-lesson.

Wrap Up: To end the period we will come back together as a group and spend 1-3 minutes reviewing the material covered during the period or clearing up and confusion you may have.

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**.

Behavior

All students are expected to be both physically and mentally prepared for class. 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.

School Year at a Glance

- Welcome Back
- Personal Narrative: Create Life Map & Write Autobiography
- Reading Fiction
- Compare & Contrast: Write a Compare & Contrast Essay that examines a film vs. a short story adaptation
- Novel Study
- Reading Nonfiction
- Writing Nonfiction: Create a Research Based Magazine
- Argumentative Writing: Write a Research Based Argumentative Essay
- Writing Fiction: Write a Fictional Short Story

Homework

1. Review this Course Contract with your parent(s)/guardian(s). Both you and your parents must sign this and return it to me by tomorrow for your first homework grade.
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/wcsdstudentforms/home?authuser=0>

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____