

8th Grade English Language Arts

Mrs. Garrand

Laura.Garrand@wcsdny.org

Course Description

Welcome to 8th Grade English Language arts (ELA)! The goal of this course is to prepare you for high school. This year we will all face some academic and social challenges, but by working together we can accomplish any task set before us. We will use the New York State Common Core and Next Generation Learning Standards as a guide to help improve your reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills.

Reading: 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, short responses, projects, and letters.

Academic Writing: Students will engage in the writing process throughout the school year to produce several writing tasks, including literary analysis, argumentative, compare/contrast, and informational pieces. Length of writing pieces will vary by task, and there will always be time allotted in class for drafting longer pieces. **Please know that not every writing assignment is lengthy or requires an essay as the final product. Writing assignments may come in the form of comprehension questions, reflections, or basic prompts.**

***Note:** Students will publish all writing tasks to Google Classroom on/before the designated due date. **Whether we are in person or virtual, if you ask for help or support with any writing assignment it will be given.** Always ask for help if you feel it is necessary.

Grading - Total Points System

You will earn grades based on your reading and writing classwork, assessments, papers, and projects. Point values for assignments vary based on their complexity. The longer and more complex a task, the more points it is worth.

iReady

iReady is a diagnostic tool that we will be using this year to help students make gains in reading. It is a comprehensive assessment program that allows the teacher to gauge their instruction based on student growth and performance. Students will be asked to complete iReady three times within the school year.

Plagiarism – If ANY of your work is plagiarized, then you will receive a zero on the assignment, and your parents and administration will be notified. Take pride in your own work because you are fully capable of completing any task assigned to you.

Google Meet Etiquette Guide



Schoolwide Expectations	Virtual Classroom
<i>Be Safe</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Stay on teacher assigned/approved sites ★ Report inappropriate comments/content to your teacher ★ Practice safe online behavior
<i>Be Responsible</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Complete and turn in assigned work ★ Be on time for your scheduled google meet or time in google classroom (if you can't be on at scheduled time, let your teacher know)
<i>Be Respectful</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Reply to others' comments in kind and thoughtful ways ★ Use accountable talk (I agree/disagree with, I'd like to add to....)

Protips for Success This Year

- ★ **BE POLITE.** Kindness and respect are the most important traits any person can possess. Treat others how you would like to be treated.
- ★ **BE PROMPT.** You are expected to be on time, which means ready to go when the lesson begins.

- ★ **BE PREPARED.** Check your school email everyday for important updates from all of your teachers.
- ★ **BE PRODUCTIVE.** Participate. Contribute. Ask questions. Use your time in class and outside of class wisely!
- ★ **Be Responsible.** 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 independently. If you have any questions, you can email me for help.

A Break Down of Class Remotely

While we are working remotely each Google Meet will look like the following...

1. **Join the Google Meet:** Sign in to our daily class Google Meet using the link located in the left hand corner in Google Classroom. Your microphone should be turned OFF when you sign in.
 - There may be some type of direction/instructions for you to follow/complete within the first 3-5 mins while attendance is taken.
2. **Attendance:** I will read your name for attendance. When you hear your name please unmute yourself and have your camera on to say “Here!”
 - Once you have made your presence known you should mute yourself again.
 - If for any reason you enter class late, please leave a comment in the chat with your name and the time you entered class or you will be marked absent.
3. **Mini-Lesson:** I will spend the next 5-15 minutes going through the lesson teaching the skill, concept, or topic you will be focusing on that day.
4. **Independent Practice:** After the lesson has been taught, I will explain the assignment that you are expected to complete for that day.
5. **Wrap Up:** Once I have gone through the lesson and assignment please feel free to ask questions.
 - If you don’t have questions, you are free to go and complete the assignment on your own.
 - I will remain in the Google Meet until the last person leaves or the period is over.
 - Remember, you can always email any questions that may come up after the class has met.

Remote Learning Bell Schedule

Period 1: 8:05 – 8:30
Period 2: 8:35 – 9:00
Period 3: 9:05 – 9:30.
Period 4: 9:35 – 10:00
Period 5: 10:05 – 10:30
Period 6: 10:35 – 11:00
Period 7: 11:05 – 11:30
Period 8: 11:35 – 12:00
Period 9: 12:05 – 12:30