

8th Grade English Language Arts (ELA/ESL)

Mr. Ted E. Hernandez

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Course Welcome/Intro

This course is designed to help students develop proficiency and confidence as readers, writers, speakers, and listeners. Emphasis is placed on the development of higher order thinking skills, grammar (usage, mechanics), increasing students' reading and writing stamina and exposure to and appreciation of a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts through the theme of choices. Students will be required to complete multiple pieces of academic writing as well as a variety of presentations in a variety of formats. Required academic writing includes but is not limited to, the structure and development of argumentative, analytical, and research writing using the writing workshop approach. Attention will also be given to the integration of technology and multimedia aspects of digital literacy necessary for college and career readiness. Activities for this course will include reading, writing, small group work, individual and group projects, common and local assessments (both formative and summative), research, defining and effectively using academic vocabulary and oral presentations. ESL courses in the ELL Program parallel grade-level curriculum and are taught using sheltered English instruction according to the students' English language proficiency.

8th Grade English Language Arts (ELA) will be utilizing standards-based learning and assessment (SBLA) which measures students' proficiency on a set of standards for the grade/content level.

The Standards Based Learning and Assessment approach:

- Indicates what students know and are able to do
- Shows student progress toward meeting a standard
- Communicates expectations ahead of time
- Is based on complex tasks, as opposed to memorization
- Focuses on recent evidence of learning.

Required Course Materials

Chromebook: Charged Chromebooks are to be brought to class on a daily basis. If a student does not bring his or her Chromebook, the student is expected to continue participating in class and complete all class work.

Classroom Expectations

Students are to be at their seats and ready to work once the bell rings. Students are to also treat each person and object in my classroom with respect.

Reassessment Policy

Students will have multiple assessment opportunities to demonstrate higher levels of achievement on any assessment that is used to determine an overall proficiency and grade. After a reassessment, the most current grade will show in Infinite Campus. While students are given many retakes as possible towards summative, students will only have this privilege if all assignments for the unit have been submitted.

Other Classroom Policies

In this classroom, students are encouraged to speak as much English as possible. Therefore, this classroom is an English speaking class only. By making this class a English only classroom, students are practicing the English language as much as possible. This policy also helps prevent bullying between the students in the class.

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Parent Signature Form

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Mr. Hernandez

Please share with your parents or guardians and have this signed and returned by _____.

Students:

I, _____, have read and understand the syllabus and agree to bring my best attitude and effort to this class every day.

Parents/Guardians:

I, _____, have read and understand the syllabus.

Home phone: _____

Work phone: _____

Cell phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Parent/Guardian preferred language: _____

How would you prefer to be contacted? (You may select multiple methods)

_____ Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____ Email

1. What is the best time of day to reach you by phone?

2. Is there anything I should know about your student's learning process?