

## C.T. ENGLISH MIDDLE SCHOOL 2019-2020 COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts  
INSTRUCTOR: Mrs. Holly Hulewat  
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**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This is an 8th grade course that exercises and expands all four realms of language arts: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will be reading assigned literature as well as outside books, and writing will be developed through a variety of techniques and styles. Students will also be engaged in activities that advance speaking, listening, and presentation skills.

**II. OBJECTIVES:** Students will show mastery of the Common Core Standards for English Language Arts in pursuit of high-school readiness. Students will engage in learning activities and assignments which develop the skills required for grade eight English language arts.

- critical thinking
- writing for various audiences
- use of textual evidence
- listening
- close reading
- grammar and conventions
- vocabulary development
- informational text
- written and verbal communication
- expanding experience through literature

### III. GRADING POLICY & WEIGHT:

<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Commendable</i>	<i>Mastery</i>	<i>Marginal</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
100.1^ = A+	89-87 = B+	79-77 = C+	69-67 = D+	
100-93 = A	86-83 = B	76-73 = C	66-63 = D	F = 59 and below
92-90 = A-	82-80 = B-	72-70 = C-	62-60 = D-	

- 60% Essential Assignments (tests, essays, projects)
- 30% Daily Learning (homework, class work, participation, quizzes, group work)
- 10% Independent Reading/Accelerated Reader

### V. ASSIGNMENTS:

**Category 1 - Essential Assignments (60% of overall grade):** EAs must be turned in on the assigned due date to be eligible for full credit. Many EA assignments must be submitted electronically through [www.Turnitin.com](http://www.Turnitin.com) along with a final printed copy to the teacher – pay careful attention to directions for each project.

- No Mastery: EAs which do not meet mastery requirements (at least a 70%) will be given back to the student for revision. Completed revisions which display mastery skills will earn a 70%.
- Late EAs: Late EAs will be reduced 10% each day until it cannot receive a grade higher than a C-/70%. An assignment that is turned in late must be complete and meet all mastery requirements to receive passing credit. *Please see “Excused Absences” on next page for absence policy.*

**Category 2 – Daily Learning (30% of overall grade):** Homework, class work, participation, and miscellaneous assignments must be turned in on the due date for full credit.

- 50% will be docked from late assignments in this category. An assignment that is turned in late must be complete and meet all mastery requirements to receive credit.

**Category 3 – Accelerated Reader (10% of overall grade):** Information can be found on “Accelerated Reader Information” page in this handbook: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Plagiarism (all categories):** Using material from another source without citing it is plagiarism. Claiming or copying someone else’s work as your own is also plagiarism and will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the student handbook. When in doubt, ask for help! When given a choice, choose honest!

### Excused Absences:

- Essential Assignments are due the next time the student attends class unless prior arrangements are made. EA due dates are given far in advance, so please connect with me.
- Students must make up missed “Daily Learning” work within a reasonable amount of time as outlined in the student handbook and arranged with teacher.
- It is the student’s responsibility to obtain the missing assignments from teacher.

### **VI. LITERATURE:**

#### *All Year:*

- ☞ Accelerated Reader Novels (independent reading)
- ☞ Selected articles, poetry, essays, and short stories

#### *1<sup>st</sup> Semester:*

- ☞ *The Wave* by Todd Strasser

#### *2<sup>nd</sup> Semester:*

- ☞ *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton

### **VII. REQUIRED & RECOMMENDED MATERIALS:**

#### Required:

- ✓ Pen (black or dark blue)/pencil
- ✓ Binder paper
- ✓ AR Book/SSR Book
- ✓ Binder with ELA section

#### Recommended:

- ✓ Personal copy of assigned books
- ✓ Highlighters: pink, green, yellow
- ✓ Post-it notes
- ✓ USB Storage Device/Flash drive

**VIII. EXTRA CREDIT:** Extra credit is an extra learning opportunity, not a substitute for required coursework; therefore, it is only available to students who have submitted all of the regular credit assignments.

**IX. PARTICIPATION and CLASSROOM CONDUCT:** Students are expected to participate in all class activities and procedures such as daily warm-ups, note-keeping, written reflections, sharing materials, class discussions, reading aloud, presentations, peer response and feedback, and other reading and writing exercises.

- In order to maintain an academic atmosphere and promote the supportive community of our school, students must refrain from using profanity and making inappropriate or insulting comments to others.
- Please do not speak out of turn or call out answers; raise your hand to share a thought or pose a question. Do not shout across the room to your friends. If someone calls out to you, be the mature one and abstain from responding. It’s not worth the trouble you’ll be in!
- When instructed to work with peers, students will be collaborative group members by contributing and listening intently.
- It is unacceptable to go to sleep or rest heads on the desk at any time during class.
- When a student forgets to bring materials to class, please exercise the community atmosphere of the classroom and ask me or a classmate to loan spare materials.
- Items which must remain out of sight:
  - Outdoor headwear (hats, hoods, visors, sunglasses, etc.)
  - Gum, candy, drinks without lids, and food
  - Cellular phones and all other electronic devices unless permitted by teacher for an activity
  - Work for other classes – will be taken away by Mrs. H
  - All other items not appropriate for school or classroom settings

**Tardiness:** Students must be in their seats and ready to begin class when the bell rings. Students who are outside of the classroom when the tardy bell rings must report directly to the office to receive an admittance pass unless he or she already has a tardy pass from a CTE staff member. Repeatedly tardy students may lose participation points, serve a detention, or receive a referral. When tardy, enter class politely.

**General:** Students will conduct themselves with the utmost respect towards their peers, teachers, and school staff. Please use good judgment regarding behavior choices and refrain from conduct which impedes the classroom learning environment or contradicts the C.T. English Mission and Philosophy.