

# NORRIS MIDDLE SCHOOL

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MRS.  
MARX'S

8<sup>TH</sup>  
GRA  
DE  
ELA  
A

## EXPECTATIONS AND PROCEDURES

Welcome to 8th grade Language Arts! This year, our focus is primarily on developing writing skills and learning how to analyze literature according to the Common Core Standards. Below you will find a clear and explicit outline of the procedures, policies, and expectations in my classroom. To optimize your learning experience, inappropriate behavior WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. All rules will follow school protocol.

### **CLASSROOM PROCEDURES**

#### **A. ENTERING THE CLASSROOM**

Please enter class silently, and be in your seat when the bell rings. You are tardy, if you are not in your seat when the bell rings.

#### **B. MOVING TO YOUR SEAT**

After you have walked through the door to the class, take out your *Language Arts notebook*, a pencil or pen, and any other supplies that you will need. No purses or bags are allowed on your desk during class.

#### **C. READING FOR PLEASURE** (First BLOCK period)

We will engage in silent, independent reading for the first fifteen minutes of the first block period. Bring your “RFP” book to class every day. A text to read will be provided for you if you do not have a book, but there may also be a consequence that follows. “RFP” will be discussed in more detail at a later time.

#### **D. MOVEMENT IN THE CLASSROOM**

Pencils should be sharpened before class begins and trash held until the end. Together we will learn responsible and appropriate timing for movement.

#### **E. GETTING THE TEACHER’S ATTENTION**

If you need to speak with Mrs. Marx, raise your hand, but do not call out with your voice.

#### **F. REQUIRED SUPPLIES**

Come to class prepared with the following supplies: a pencil/pen; Language Arts notebook (A 3 ring binder with five dividers); your “RFP” book, agenda, and any assigned homework.

#### **G. BATHROOM USAGE**

Ideally, you should use the bathroom during the break between classes. If you need to use the bathroom during class, just let me know. If this privilege is overused, there will be consequences.

#### **H. END OF CLASS DISMISSAL**

Mrs. Marx, not the sound of the bell, will tell the class when it is time to get ready to go. When Mrs. Marx says, “Time to clean up,” that means that all students should *silently* pack up their belongings and read quietly. When Mrs. Marx says, “Have a good day,” then the students may leave the classroom.

#### **I. CHEATING**

Any form of cheating will result in a zero for the assignment, parents being informed, and supplementary disciplinary action. Breeches in academic integrity include copying homework, assignments, assessments, and talking during assessments.

## H. FIRE/EARTHQUAKE/EMERGENCY

For emergency drills and real emergencies, we will remain calm, leave the classroom, and walk to the appropriate place as one group. As we walk together, no students should separate from the class group.

### CLASSROOM POLICIES

1. Students must sit where they are placed on the seating chart. There are no exceptions to this rule.
2. I will take any electronic device or related item that I see or hear which includes but is not limited to: iPods, iPads, headphones, cell phones, video game players, etc. There will be no warnings given and there is no room for negotiation.
3. No hats or hoods may be worn after you cross through the classroom door.
4. No gum, food, or drinks are permitted in the classroom besides water in a clear bot

### GRADING

- A. Your grades will be weighted as follows:
  - Writing, Projects, and Presentations (40%)
  - Tests and Quizzes (40%)
  - Practice Work and Participation (20%)
- B. **Homework Completion** – To receive full credit on homework, all parts of the assignment must be complete. **No** Late work will be accepted, unless the assignment is 100 points or over.
- C. **ALL MAKE-UP WORK MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE TIME ALLOWED IN THE STUDENT HANDBOOK.** It is your responsibility to make up your work either before or after class.
- D. **REVISION/REDO POLICY** – In order for you to have the best opportunity to succeed, you will have the ability to have essays graded as many times as possible before the due date. On some test, you will have the ability to redo the test using a different format. The following guidelines will be enforced in order for you to be allowed to revise/redo an assignment. Any of the guidelines may be adjusted at the discretion of the teacher.
  - Student must get the revision/redo contract signed by a parent/guardian
  - If deemed necessary, the student must attend an extra help session (before/after school) to receive extra help or more individualized instruction.
  - If deemed necessary, the student must complete an appropriate additional assignment given by the teacher during extra help session.
  - Assessment re-takes will cover the exact same material as the original, but the format may be different. This is at the discretion of the teacher.
  - The re-take and the original will both be considered to see the student's growth of knowledge, which will inform the decision of the teacher to adjust the grade.

- Any revision or redo of an assignment must be completed one week prior to the close of the marking period in order for the teacher to calculate it into the student's grade.

## **CLASSROOM PARTICIPATION**

### *Effective Participation:*

1. **BEING HERE!**
2. Participating in class discussions and class work – you have a voice, use it!
3. Handing in homework on time
4. Bringing all materials to class with you EVERYDAY
5. Staying on task and attentive at all times

### *Ineffective Participation:*

1. Sleeping or not being attentive
2. Being late to class without an excuse and/or NOT completing assigned work.
3. Not staying on task (writing notes, doing other assignments, talking, etc.)
4. Not being prepared for class (No homework, pencil, or materials etc.)
5. Being disruptive to the class in any way.

### **Consequences for Choosing to Meet or Exceed the Expectations:**

1. The Joy of Learning
2. Verbal Praise
3. Merit Points (more on this later)
4. Positive call or note home
5. Increased freedom/respect

### **Consequences for Choosing to NOT Meet the Expectations:**

1. Verbal or visual warning
2. After-class, during-lunch, or after school meeting with Mrs. Marx.
3. After-class, during-lunch, or after school meeting with Mrs. Marx; call home
4. Lunch or After-school Detention
5. Referral to Dean

*\*\*Course of disciplinary action may vary depending on severity of offense and/or administrative discretion.*

## **PLAGIARISM**

**PLAGIARISM IS DEFINED AS PRESENTING SOMEONE ELSE'S WORK—INCLUDING THE WORK OF OTHER STUDENTS—AS ONE'S OWN. ANY IDEAS OR MATERIAL TAKEN FROM ANOTHER SOURCE FOR EITHER WRITTEN OR ORAL USE MUST BE FULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.**

- You must not adopt or reproduce ideas, opinions, theories, formulas, graphics, or pictures of another person without acknowledgment. In addition, you must give credit to the originality of others whenever:
  1. Directly quoting another person's actual words, whether oral or written;
  2. Using another person's ideas, opinions, or theories;
  3. Paraphrasing the words, ideas, opinions, or theories of others, whether oral or written;

4. Borrowing facts, statistics, or illustrative material; or
5. Offering materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections  
With out acknowledgement.



## COMMON CORE STANDARDS ELA GRADE 8

### READING: LITERATURE

KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.1-3
CRAFT AND STRUCTURE	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.4-6
INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.7-9
RANGE OF READING AND LEVEL OF TEXT COMPLEXITY	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.10

### READING: INFORMATIONAL TEXT

KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.1-3
CRAFT AND STRUCTURE	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.4-6
INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.7-9
RANGE OF READING AND LEVEL OF TEXT COMPLEXITY	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.10

### WRITING

TEXT TYPES AND PURPOSES	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.1-3
PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF WRITING	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.4-6

RESEARCH TO BUILD AND PRESENT KNOWLEDGE  
RANGE OF WRITING

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.7-9  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.10

## SPEAKING AND LISTENING

COMPREHENSION AND COLLABORATION  
PRESENTATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.1-3  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.4-6

## LANGUAGE

CONVENTIONS OF STANDARD ENGLISH  
KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGE

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.1-2  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.3

# NORRIS MIDDLE SCHOOL

VOCABULARY ACQUISITION AND USE

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.4-6

## ELA 8 CONTRACT

### WHAT PARENTS/GUARDIANS CAN DO TO HELP THEIR CHILD SUCCEED IN ELA 8

1. **Support your child and expect them to succeed.** The youth of our society have proved to rise to the expectations set for them. High expectations of success through the home environment are critical to the learning and achievement of our students.
2. **Do not accept any excuses for not succeeding in ELA 8.** Listen to your child's difficulties so that positive and proactive measures can be taken to resolve the situation. If your child is putting forth a complete effort in class and still has difficulty, I am glad to offer assistance and further instruction before or after school. I take the education of *every* child very seriously.
3. **Help your child establish a routine for studying.** Success, in many cases, is linked to routine studying and a strong work ethic. Limit the opportunity for possible distractions and help keep your child focused on the task at hand.
4. **Do not allow your child to violate classroom policy.** The policies, rules and procedures illustrated in the syllabus are intentionally rigid and structured. If your child receives a consequence due to an infraction of policy, consider my expectations for learning and your child's actions in the learning atmosphere, rather than questioning the merit of the consequence.

-----Please sign & return the portion below-----

### ELA 8 CONTRACT

I am aware of my child's expectations, procedures, policies, and rules for this course.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the rules, procedures and expectations outlined in the ELA 8 syllabus. It is my responsibility to become keenly aware of the classroom policies. My primary goal as a student is to learn and any act that deviates from the teacher's ability to teach will NOT be tolerated.

Regardless of my perceptions of grammar, reading and writing, I will commit myself to learning the course material by taking notes, completing homework assignments, being attentive in class, not distracting others, and taking responsibility for my education. I understand the importance of personal accountability and will give my absolute best effort inside and outside of class. I am aware that excuses to justify my lack of success or effort are neither acceptable nor will they be entertained.

I will adhere to all classroom and district policies, as well as completing all assigned readings, writings, and homework. I understand that I am equally accountable as everyone else in the class to the above expectations.

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Student's Signature

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Date