

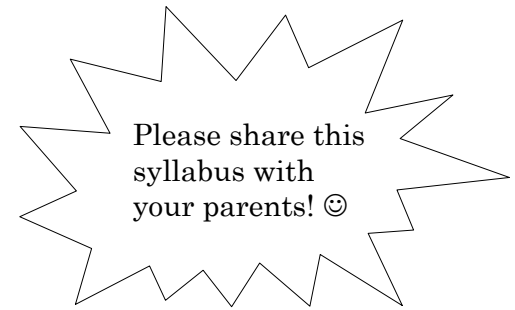
8th Grade Language Arts Syllabus - Hillview Middle School

Teacher: Mr. Sill

Location: Room 108

Email: a.sill@westside.k12.ca.us

Telephone: 661-722-9993 ext. 77336



Welcome to Mr. Sill's Language Arts Class!

Parents, I would like to start by saying – I am here to help. Please stay in touch. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns at any point in the year. **I am best reached by email, and I respond promptly.** We have a lot of work ahead of us, and I want to ensure parents and students have everything they need so we can all succeed this year. With this in mind, **please carefully complete the contact information sheet at the end of the syllabus.** Finally, please come to Parent Teacher Conferences! This is a great opportunity to gather info on my class and the coming school year. Announcements with dates and times will be released via phone and email in the coming weeks.

This class is all about working together to become better writers, readers, and critical thinkers. I will be asking you to do a lot of thinking in this class, which requires you to *be bold and take a stand, be confident in what you think, and be open to changing your mind* as we learn together. I will do my best to meet you where you are, and help you find steps to becoming a clear thinker, strong reader, and a confident writer. All I ask of my students is to come in with a positive attitude and willingness to learn something new.

Required Materials:

- Pens - black/blue and red
- Pencils
- Highlighter(s) - any 4 colors
- 1-inch 3-Ring Binder with 6 dividers
- Lined notebook paper
- Reading book (student choice)
- Composition book

Novel List:

Lord of the Flies, by William Golding
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, by John Boyne
Chasing Lincoln's Killer, by James L. Swanson *

Assignments:

- **Writing** (essays, reflections, journals, portfolio)
- **Reading** (reading quizzes, comprehension activities, projects)
- **Speaking and Listening** (class discussion activities, presentations)
- **Grammar** (class practice, quizzes)
- **Vocabulary** (class activities, quizzes)
- **Homework/Classwork** (take-home assignments and participation)

Classroom Values: LUCK

1. **Listening:** Listening is the cornerstone of learning, respect, and community. So, you are expected not only to listen to Mr. Sill when he is talking, but also to one-another.
2. **Understanding:** Everyone has a unique story, full of different experiences, beliefs, and struggles. Seek to understand and appreciate the reasons for your differences. Don't let differences divide you.
3. **Collaboration:** We need one-another. All great human invention and creativity has depended on human relationship: working together, sharing ideas, and growing together.

4. **Kindness:** In all you do, act with kindness. Kindness is the glue that holds us together. It helps us to grow, learn, and progress. The more kindness you show, the more content you will be in life.

Consequences for Choosing Not to Follow Classroom Guidelines:

- Nonverbal warning - “Stink Eye”
- Verbal Warning
- Step outside
- Written Warning
- Lunch Detention
- Office Referral and Call Home

Class Website: This course will be available in Google Classroom. A link to the website can be found inside your Google apps. Mr. Sill will provide a “class code” in class. I will update this website every school day. You will have access to class worksheets, PowerPoint presentations, homework assignments, and project/essay guidelines. Students may ask questions and request clarification on assignments directly in Google Classroom to which I will do my best to respond as soon as possible.

Binder: Notes will be taken almost daily. You will be required to organize and keep these notes throughout the course. Many consider organization as an essential element to academic success. As such, your notebook must be a three ring binder with 6 dividers. Binder sections must include: *Literature*, *Writing*, *Vocabulary*, *Grammar*, *Handouts*, and *Graded Work*. Binder checks will occur periodically for credit.

Homework: There will be a variety of homework assignments in this course. **I try to keep assignments small and simple.** Homework can include readings, short answer responses, essays, online discussion board posts, and projects. To receive full credit on assignments you must *turn in your work on time*. Homework will always be due the next class period unless otherwise noted. If due dates are later than our next class period, these will be made clear in class as well as on our Google Classroom. Be sure to keep all graded work until the end of each semester.

Late Work Policy: I like to be flexible, and I accept late work. But, there are limitations and I will communicate those to students in class. Typically, we will hit a “refresh” every two-three weeks, after which late work will no longer be accepted for the previous period.

Absent Policy: It is your responsibility to find out what work you missed while you were absent. I will post our daily agenda, homework assignments, and any worksheets passed out during class onto our Google Classroom at the end of the school day. You will also find PowerPoint presentations shown during your absence on Google Classroom so you can make up the notes you missed. If you ask me what it was you missed I will always refer you to Google Classroom.

Quizzes: We will have quizzes on a variety of lessons. These will mostly be scheduled to give you a chance to study, however, there will be an occasional pop quiz to ensure students are studying and reviewing their notes daily.

Tests: We will have tests on class notes which will detail the material we’ve covered. Additionally, we will have written response essays where I will be looking for evidence that you have comprehended specific writing styles and techniques we will be working on.

Electronics:

All electronics are to be turned off or silenced and put away into a backpack. Unless otherwise noted, students may not have any electronics out during class.

Tardy Policies:

It is critical that students arrive to class on time. School policies will be enforced. Please refer to your Planner for the school's tardy policies.

Cheating/Plagiarism:

Academic honesty is extremely important. If a student is found cheating or plagiarizing on any assignment, all those involved will receive a zero on the assignment, unless another agreement is made between parent, student, and teacher.

Grading Scale:

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F = 59 and below

If you have any questions about this information or about Language Arts, please feel free to contact me. I'm looking forward to a fun and productive school year!

Best Regards,

Mr. Sill

a.sill@westside.k12.ca.us

661-722-9993 ext 77215

This portion of the syllabus will need to be filled out, signed, and returned

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Name of contact: _____ Relationship: _____

Email: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

Evening Telephone: _____

Please sign below to verify that you and your student have reviewed the information in this syllabus and that you are both aware of the expectations in Language Arts. This slip counts as their first graded assignment.

Parent Name Parent Signature Date

Student Name Student Signature Date