



HONORS ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8

Syllabus

Discovery Middle School
1304 Hughes Road
Madison, AL 35758

Teacher: Mrs. Leslie Hughes
Email: Inhughes@madisoncity.k12.al.us
Class Webpage: www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Page/5538
Phone Number: 256-837-3735 ext. 82516

Course Description:	8th Grade Honors Language Arts is an accelerated learning environment, which requires students to work more independently in class and at home. Students are required to read at and above grade-level texts independently and at an accelerated pace. To help students prepare for college and future careers, the foundation for 8th Grade Honors Language Arts stems from the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards for incoming 8th graders who will eventually progress to 9th Grade Pre-AP English. Students will collaboratively then independently participate in the research process and compose a published product of their findings. Students will also implement Madison City's writing curriculum, Claim-Data-Commentary in written responses. Reading, writing, speaking, listening, and collaborative strategies are used purposefully to build knowledge and skills and to help students become independent readers, writers, and thinkers as they transition into high school. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning, encourage in-depth exploration of the content, and develop academic habits of mind. Outside and summer reading are required.
Course Objectives:	Students will develop and strengthen critical thinking skills by reading, comprehending, and engaging with both literary and informational texts. Students will make text-to-text connections, text-to-world connections, and text-to-self connections. Students will be able to identify, define, and duplicate examples of figurative language found in texts. They will demonstrate their understanding of the text through various formative and summative assessments. Students will display the convergence of their independent thoughts

	<p>and textual examples in the writing of paragraphs and essays, as well as develop clear and concise writing skills through the execution of writing assignments and the application of proofreading and editing skills. Students will also improve their writing through the increased understanding and application of grammar, mechanics, and vocabulary skills. Students will be able to respectfully engage critically and constructively in oral exchanges of ideas through class discussions, small group assignments, and project-based learning. Students will develop and display clear written and verbal communication skills</p>
<p>Classroom Expectations:</p>	<p><u>Classroom Rules and Procedures</u> Be responsible, be respectful, be prepared, be on time, and be on task.</p> <p>Students should refer to the Student Handbook for any clarification of classroom and school rules.</p> <p><u>Accommodations</u> Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.</p> <p><u>Concerning laptop and cell phone utilization</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Student laptops should not be hard wired to the network or have print capabilities. 2. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or USB devices will not be allowed on MCS computers. 3. Neither the teacher nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops or cell phones. 4. Laptops and other electronic devices, including cell phones and tablets, will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher.
<p>Textbook:</p>	<p>The textbook, <i>Mirrors and Windows</i>- Level III, will be used in class as a supplemental resource. Novels will regularly be used in class during specific units. Please contact Mrs. Lack for more details.</p> <p>Publisher: EMC Publishing (2009) ISBN-10: 0821931059 ISBN-13: 978-0821931059</p>
<p>Grading:</p>	<p>Test grades will account for 60% of the 9-weeks grade, with the remaining 40% being determined by quiz/daily grades. The grading scale is as follows: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (65-69), and F</p>

	(below 65). Grades will be a reflection of mastery of the standards. Make sure all absences are excused, as class work can be made up and graded for <u>excused absences only</u> .
Make-up Work:	Under normal circumstances, it is expected that students will submit <u>previously</u> assigned work upon return to school after an excused absence. All work missed on the day(s) of excused absences must be made up within a timeframe determined by the teacher. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure he or she makes up work following excused absences. Students will not receive credit for and will not be allowed to make up any assignments, tests, work, activities, etc., missed during unexcused absences. (DMS 2021-2022 Student Handbook)
Late Work:	For work turned in late, the following policy will apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assignment will drop one LETTER grade for each school day that passes. For example, if an assignment is turned in one school day late, the highest a student can receive is 89%; two days late, 79%, etc. 1 day late = maximum credit 89% 2 days late = maximum credit 79% 3 days late = maximum credit 69% 4 days late = maximum credit 59% 5-10 days late = maximum credit 50% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half credit is always better than no credit! Until work has been made up, "Missing" (which counts as a zero) will be put in the grade book. This will be updated once work is completed and turned in.
Accommodations:	Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.
Turnitin Notice:	The majority of writing assignments in this course will be submitted to Turnitin via the Schoology learning platform. The primary focus of this software is to help students become better writers and scholars. Turnitin generates a report on the originality of student writing by comparing it with a database of periodicals, books, online content, student papers, and other published work. This program will help students discern when they are using sources fairly, citing properly, and paraphrasing effectively – skills essential to all academic work.

	Students will have the opportunity to review their Turnitin originality report and will have the opportunity to make revisions before submitting their work for grading. Once their work is submitted, teachers have the opportunity to view the student's originality report and grade accordingly.
Technology	Concerning laptop utilization: 1. Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities. 2. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers. 3. Neither the teacher, nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops. 4. Laptops and other electronic devices will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher.
Materials and Supplies:	Student success depends on coming to school prepared. Please bring the following materials to class: school issued electronic device, loose-leaf paper, pencils, 1.5" binder, dividers, highlighters, index cards, and sticky notes.

Week Plan *Subject to Change	
Week	Unit
1	Classroom Procedures and Student Handbook Review
2	Summer Reading Close Reads and Project
3	Realistic Fiction
4	Realistic Fiction
5	Realistic Fiction
6	Project Due
7	Science Fiction
8	Science Fiction

9	Science Fiction Project Due
10	(Short Stories/Poems/Dramas)
11	(Short Stories/Poems/Dramas)
12	(Short Stories/Poems/Dramas)
13	Dystopian Fiction
14	Dystopian Fiction
15	Dystopian Fiction
16	Dystopian Fiction
17	Dystopian Fiction Project Due
18	First Semester Exam Reviews and Exam
19	(Non Fiction and Historical Fiction)
20	(Non Fiction and Historical Fiction)
21	(Non Fiction and Historical Fiction)
22	(Non Fiction and Historical Fiction)
23	(Non Fiction and Historical Fiction)
24	(Non Fiction and Historical Fiction)
25	ACAP Review Skills
26	ACAP Review Skills
27	ACAP Review Skills
28	Historical Literature/Poetry/ Research Project
29	Historical Literature/ Poetry/ Research Project
30	Historical Literature/Poetry/ Research Project
31	Literature Circles
32	Literature Circles

33	Literature Circles
34	Exam Review
35	Exam Review / Exams
36	9th Grade Summer Reading Boot Camp