





Liberty Middle School

281 Dock Murphy Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

Honors 8th Grade English Language Arts

Mrs. Sarah Pepper

Teacher Contact Information	Email: sbpepper@madisoncity.k12.al.us Phone: 256-430-0001
Classroom Digital Platforms	Webpage Link: Mrs. Pepper Webpage LMS Distribution List Link: Mrs. Pepper Distribution List Sign Up
Textbook Information	<i>Mirrors and Windows - Level III</i> , EMC Publishing - This text will be used as a supplemental resource.
Course Description	<p>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/home and summer reading are required.</p>
Course Objectives	<p>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, text-to-world, 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 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 a dialogue of ideas through class discussion, small group assignments, and project-based learning. Students will develop and display clear written and verbal communication skills.</p>
Course Outline	<p> Unit 1: Summer Reading <i>The Outsiders</i> by S. E. Hinton Unit 2: Short Stories Unit 3: <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury Unit 4: Literary Analysis Writing to supplement <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> Unit 5: <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> by William Shakespeare (No Fear Shakespeare version) Unit 6: ACAP Writing CDC Unit 7: <i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak Unit 8: Research Paper Writing to supplement <i>The Book Thief</i> Unit 9: *new text Unit 10: Poetry Unit 11: Summer Reading Introduction </p> <p><i>*Many novels are regularly supplemented with additional text types, both fiction and nonfiction. This course outline is subject to change at any time with or without notice.</i></p>
Classroom Expectations	<p>1. Be seated and ready for class when the bell rings. Students tardy to class will receive a detention per</p>

	<p>LMS policy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Come prepared for class. Bring all necessary supplies, including homework. 3. Respect your teacher, your classmates, and yourself. 4. Listen and follow directions. 5. If it's not yours, don't touch it. Keep your hands and feet to yourself. If you break something of mine, be prepared to replace it. This also applies to school technology. 6. Follow all school rules. 7. The teacher dismisses the class, not the bell.
<p>Progressive Discipline <i>(LMS Policy)</i></p>	<p>Step 1: Verbal warning Step 2: Student/teacher conference Step 3: Parent contact/conference Step 4: Detention and a parent contact Step 5: Office referral</p>
<p>Grading Policy <i>(MCS Policy)</i></p>	<p>60% = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects) 40% = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation)</p> <p>Writing may be assessed using Turnitin.com</p>
<p>Late Work Policy</p>	<p>10% will be deducted off the assignment per week late. After three weeks, the maximum grade a student can receive on a late assignment is 65%.</p>
<p>Make-up Work/Test Policy</p>	<p>Students with excused absences will be allowed to make-up all work within three days of returning to school per excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to ask for make-up work. Students can get with a classmate or ask the teacher for help. After the three day window for make-up work, the late work policy will become applicable. Work that is not made up will become a zero (including quizzes/tests).</p>
<p>Materials & Supplies</p>	<p><u>LMS 2021-2022 Supply List</u></p> <p><u>Link for Mrs. Pepper's Giving Tree Wish List</u></p> <p>Novels are required for purchase at the Honors level.</p> <p>Novels to be purchased:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>The Outsiders</i> by S. E. Hinton ● <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury ● <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> by William Shakespeare (No Fear Shakespeare version) ● <i>The Book Thief</i> by Markus Zusak ● *One new text TBD <p>Novel sales will begin August 12th - 20th, 2021. Students will have the option to purchase books through the LMS ELA department fundraiser.</p>
<p>Homework</p>	<p>At the honors level, students are required to complete the majority of their reading outside of class. Students will be given reading calendars with the start of each required text. In addition to the required outside reading, students may need to complete unfinished classwork at home.</p> <p>Students will be required to review and study for major assignments at home.</p>
<p>Parent & Student Acknowledgment Form</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">   </div>

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