





# Liberty Middle School

281 Dock Murphy Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

## 8th Grade English Language Arts

Mrs. Sarah Pepper

<b>Teacher Contact Information</b>	<b>Email:</b> sbpepper@madisoncity.k12.al.us <b>Phone:</b> 256-430-0001
<b>Classroom Digital Platforms</b>	<b>Webpage Link:</b> <a href="#">Mrs. Pepper Webpage LMS</a> <b>Distribution List Link:</b> <a href="#">Mrs. Pepper Distribution List Sign Up</a>
<b>Textbook Information</b>	<i>Mirrors and Windows - Level III</i> , EMC Publishing - This text will be used as a supplemental resource.
<b>Course Description</b>	<p>To help students prepare for college and future careers, the foundation for 8th Grade Language Arts stems from the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards for incoming 8th graders who will eventually progress to 9th grade Language Arts. The content standards focus on four specific areas: reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. In 8th grade, students will analyze a variety of literature and informational text. The reading standards will require students to read and analyze a variety of fiction and informational texts to determine how literary devices interact, identify central themes, examine author's craft, and support these findings with textual evidence. Students will be guided through the research and writing process to produce writing in the narrative, expository, and persuasive modes along with guiding and implementing the Madison City writing curriculum, Claim-Data-Commentary. In addition, students will engage effectively in a variety of collaborative discussions and adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks along with building on and responding to the ideas of others. <b>Outside reading and summer reading are required.</b></p>
<b>Course Objectives</b>	<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>
<b>Course Outline</b>	<p><b>Unit 1: Summer Reading   <i>The Outsiders</i> by S. E. Hinton</b>  <b>Unit 2: Short Stories</b>  <b>Unit 3: <i>Unwind</i> by Neal Shusterman</b>  <b>Unit 4: ACAP Writing   CDC</b>  <b>Unit 5: <i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i> by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett (play)</b>  <b>Unit 6: Research Paper Writing to supplement <i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i></b>  <b>Unit 7: *new text</b>  <b>Unit 8: Poetry</b>  <b>Unit 9: Summer Reading Introduction</b></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>
<b>Classroom Expectations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be seated and ready for class when the bell rings. Students tardy to class will receive a detention per LMS policy.</li> <li>2. Come prepared for class. Bring all necessary supplies, including homework.</li> </ol>

	<p>3. Respect your teacher, your classmates, and yourself.</p> <p>4. Listen and follow directions.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>6. Follow all school rules.</p> <p>7. The teacher dismisses the class, not the bell.</p>
<p><b>Progressive Discipline</b> <i>(LMS Policy)</i></p>	<p><b>Step 1:</b> Verbal warning</p> <p><b>Step 2:</b> Student/teacher conference</p> <p><b>Step 3:</b> Parent contact/conference</p> <p><b>Step 4:</b> Detention and a parent contact</p> <p><b>Step 5:</b> Office referral</p>
<p><b>Grading Policy</b> <i>(MCS Policy)</i></p>	<p>60% = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects)</p> <p>40% = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation)</p> <p>Writing may be assessed using Turnitin.com</p>
<p><b>Late Work Policy</b></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><b>Make-up Work/Test Policy</b></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><b>Materials &amp; Supplies</b></p>	<p><a href="#"><u>LMS 2021-2022 Supply List</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Link for Mrs. Pepper's Giving Tree Wish List</u></a></p> <p>Novels available for purchase (recommended but not required):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Unwind</i> by Neal Shusterman</li> <li>● *One new text TBA</li> </ul> <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><b>Homework</b></p>	<p>Students will not be assigned work to complete outside of the class block. The only way students will have homework is if they do not complete their classwork within the class block.</p> <p>Students will be required to review and study for major assignments at home.</p>
<p><b>Parent &amp; Student Acknowledgment Form</b></p>	<div style="text-align: center;">     </div>

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