

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8

Liberty Middle School

2020-2021 COURSE SYLLABUS



Mrs. Sarah
Pepper

How to Reach Me:

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Schoology Messages

<https://madisoncity.webex.com/meet/sbpepper>

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Course Description

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. Outside reading and summer reading are required.

- Pg. 9 of the MCS 2020-2021 Course Catalogue

Supplies

- 1½" 3 ring binder
- Tab Dividers (labeled: Bellwork, Reading, Grammar, Vocabulary, Writing)
- Loose leaf paper
 - Pencils
 - Pens
 - Highlighters
 - Post-It Notes
 - Index Cards
- **Computer Access for Virtual Learning**

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR

Virtual/Remote Learning

Virtual Schedule

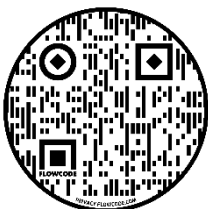
Students will be required to use Schoology for virtual and/or remote learning. Check Schoology and your Madison City email **daily** (M-F). The weekly learning plan will be posted each Monday morning by 8 A.M.

Live teaching sessions will occur almost daily for the first 15-30 minutes of the block. Small group instruction and check-in times will be available and/or assigned. Grades will be logged in iNow. Academic dishonesty and inappropriate behavior in the virtual classroom will follow the same consequence procedure as face-to-face instruction.

A Block (8:15-9:29) Speech & Debate	8:15-8:35 Instruction (A) 8:35-8:55 Online Student Support (A) 8:55-9:20 Daily Office Hour (A)
B Block (9:39-10:53) ELA 8	9:45-10:05 Instruction (B) 10:05-10:25 Online Student Support (B) 10:25-10:50 Daily Office Hour (B)
Lunch (10:57-11:42)	Teacher Lunch
C Block (11:42-12:44) ELA 8	11:42-12:02 Instruction (C) 12:02-12:22 Online Student Support (C) 12:22-12:44 Daily Office Hour (C)
D Block (12:48-2:02) ELA 8	12:55-1:15 Instruction (D) 1:15-1:35 Online Student Support (D) 1:35-2:00 Daily Office Hour (D)
E Block (2:06-3:20)	Planning

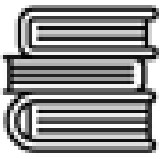
Office Hours

- Office hours are available daily during the allotted time for each block. Parents and/or students may use this time to conference and discuss grades, behavior, performance, questions, or concerns. You may visit my teacher website or scan the QR code here for the schedule.



Technology Etiquette

- Students should make every effort to attend their scheduled class time.
 - Students will be respectful and appropriate during live sessions and on any posts.
- Students will keep their webcam on and their mic muted unless asking or responding to a question.
 - Students will reach out to the teacher for help with any questions.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN *Mrs. Pepper's* CLASS

****All classroom policies and procedures are subject to change at any time, with or without written notice.****

Classroom Expectations

1. Prepared – everyday with necessary materials
2. Engaged – no cellphones and/or headphones unless for instructional purposes per Mrs. Pepper's discretion / active listening / participation
3. Punctual – be on time / work with a purpose
4. Responsible – follow directions the first time they're given / be a leader / use flex seating correctly
5. Respectful – respect our class and the people in it

Consequences

1. Warning
2. Move Seat and/or Student Conference & Behavior Ticket
3. Parent Contact
4. Detention and Parent Contact or Conference
5. Office Referral

Teachers and school staff reserve the right to skip steps if immediate action is required. All MCS rules will be followed at all times.

Additional Policies & Guidelines

FOOD LIMITATIONS

- Due to furniture in classroom, avoid bringing food or non-secure drink items. Spills or crumbs would be difficult to remove, therefore, let's do our best to avoid them completely.
- Screw-top lids (i.e. water bottles) are permissible.

FLEXIBLE SEATING IN CLASS

- Is a privilege, not a right.
- If not using responsibly or if behaviors are interfering with yours or another student's success, privileges will be revoked until further notice.

MAKE-UP WORK

- No make-up work can be given unless each absence is excused. You have 3 days from the date of the absence to turn in an excuse to the front office; all unexcused absences will be given zeroes for each assignment during the absence. Make-up work is your responsibility!

Grading



SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT (60%):

Tests, announced quizzes, projects, essays, and other major assignments.

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT (40%):

Daily grades, includes homework, classwork, bellwork, exit tickets, and occasional pop quizzes.

****Grades are accessible via INow throughout the semester. Please note that codes such as "ABS" or "EX" will show as a 0 if using a cellular device to access INow. If using a desktop/laptop, the average and codes should calculate correctly.****



ADDITIONAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

****All classroom policies and procedures are subject to change at any time, with or without written notice.****

Class Time (In & Out)

When the bell rings, be in your seat with necessary materials, ready to go. Bellwork will appear on the board every day, and you should begin this before the bell rings. The LMS Student Handbook policy on tardiness will be adhered to. Class is not over until I dismiss you; do not pack up early.

Classwork, Homework & Projects

Students will be asked to complete a variety of assignments. All assignments done in class will normally be turned in the same day unless stated otherwise. If students are absent, there will be a designated section of the room for your student to collect the necessary materials to complete from their absence day. Students will have 3 days to make up missed work for full credit.

Late Work

Students will be allowed to turn in work with a 10% reduction for each day it is late, up to 3 days after the assignment is due. Late projects will adhere to this policy as well. Students will know in advance when tests and projects are due. Reminders for tests, projects, and homework will remain on the board until the day the assignment is due. It is the responsibility of the student to write down all due dates. Please use a planner or other organizational tool to help you keep up with due dates.

Parent Communication

Parents can expect to receive information on upcoming due dates, assignments, tests, projects, and other important classroom information weekly by signing up for my e-mail distribution list. Visit my teacher website for the link.

Cheating/Plagiarism



- Cheating is defined as giving or receiving information on homework, quizzes, or tests or submitting duplicate work for outside assignments.
- Plagiarism – using another person’s ideas or writing as your own. Using technology to cheat or copy the work of another is prohibited. If you are found guilty of cheating/plagiarism, you will receive a zero on the assignment, a parent/guardian will be contacted, and may be referred to the office for disciplinary action.

Passes Out of Class

3 PASSES PER 9 WEEKS

If you need to leave for any reason, you **MUST** have permission and must follow the school policies in place.

If your student has an extenuating circumstance that requires frequent bathroom visits, written excuses from a parent or doctor must be given to the nurse who will then alert the teacher to allow more passes out of class.

ELL Tests

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

These will be the days students are assigned major tests and quizzes. Students will be notified in advance of tests to prepare in a timely manner. If school is out for weather or other reasons on a test day, the test will be the next day unless otherwise noted.



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Technology Policy

Technology can be a huge asset to student learning, if used correctly. When we are free to use our devices, we will be "plugged in". When we are not to use our devices, we will be "unplugged". When not used for class-related work, devices should be out of sight, out of mind. Misuse of devices during class time will result in a detention write-up. All computer policies set by the school and school system will be enforced in the classroom and computer labs when visited. Use is a privilege, which can be lost if mistreated. There will be times in class that we use phones/headphones/laptops/iPads, etc. per Mrs. Pepper's discretion if you choose to bring them. Any personal item you bring from home is your responsibility and Mrs. Pepper is not responsible for lost/stolen/damaged devices.

Sufficient warnings will be given to put up device if not to be used – classroom consequence policy will be followed.

Textbooks & Schoology

- Textbooks are NOT assigned in Language Arts classes to complete classroom assignments. Textbook codes are distributed so students may access their textbooks online. If desired, a textbook may be checked out from the teacher, via student request for a brief, specific time.
- We will supplement classroom instruction with the use of Schoology. More info to come via the Distribution List.

Entering Class

Students will be required to gather any necessary materials quickly, find their seats, and begin working on the day's Bellwork.

Students who are repeatedly told to get necessary materials and begin the Bellwork assignment after the 2nd bell has sounded will be considered tardy. Parents will be contacted if noticing a pattern. If unresolved, student will be assigned detention, and parent's will be contacted.

Tardy Policy

- Tardy 1 – verbal warning
- Tardy 2 – behavior ticket and parent contact
- Tardy 3 – detention assigned and parent contact

Extenuating circumstances will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Mrs. Pepper's Syllabus Signature Form

I have read and understand Mrs. Pepper's classroom policies, procedures, expectations, and syllabus. As a student, I agree to abide by the classroom guidelines. As a parent, I am aware of the policies/procedures and have discussed them with my child. Please cut & return this slip.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Today's Date: _____

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