

LANGUAGE ARTS III
Eighth Grade Syllabus
2020-2021

TEACHER INFORMATION

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will read and analyze different literary genres including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama. Students will read, analyze, and write expository, narrative, argumentative, and persuasive essays, as well as learn to develop ideas fully, organize them effectively, and express them clearly. Students will use speaking strategies effectively and understand the nature and power of language. Critical thinking is integrated into all components of the course therefore, students will engage in the learning process as critical and creative thinkers.

COURSE MATERIALS

Composition (or Spiral) notebook (one per Segment/Semester), and pens or pencils (w/sharpener as needed);

Online device access to myPascoConnect and myLearning for course materials and classwork/homework submissions.

Supplies

Students are expected to have their Language Arts notebook (or paper) and writing utensils with them in class every day. Student journals will NOT be kept in the classroom. Students are also encouraged to keep a copy of the quarterly novel study choice book on them as assignments and activities related to the books will be done on an ongoing basis (weekly assignments and check-ins).

COURSE SCHEDULE

Textbook (online in myLearning)

FLVS Grade 8 and supplemental materials: Students will have access to all curriculum in the FLVS online textbook as part of a class on **MyLearning** via **MyPascoConnect** (link available on school website: <https://csrms.pasco.k12.fl.us/>).

mySchool ONLINE ONLY: Students with limited computer access may check out a school laptop by submitting a Device Distribution Request 20-21 form on the school website: <https://csrms.pasco.k12.fl.us/myschool-online-device-pick-up/>. All classwork is posted in **MyLearning** via **MyPascoConnect**. Parents may login with a supervisory account after Open House. ALL mySchool Online (MSO) students MUST login to the course and join the class Zoom meeting EVERY DAY during your scheduled class period. Note: Attendance will be taken daily, and participation in coursework and discussions is expected. MSO students may keep either a physical notebook, or you may use the Office365 OneNote online notebook. ESE students must connect with their ESE Support Facilitator of record at least weekly via email or Zoom (see Calenderly scheduling for ESE conferences).

Each unit will culminate in an exam, and each Segment [Semester] will include a final Exam for the semester. Also, each Segment [Semester] will incorporate a Collaboration Project and novel study (choice options available). Additionally, Quarter 2 will include our speech component: #Pasco Students Speak. This is an overview of the unit thematic plan of study for the 2020-2021 school year:

- Quarter 1: Life Changing Innovation (weeks 1-4) & Social Invention (weeks 5-9)
- Quarter 2: Imagine Other Worlds & #PascoStudentsSpeak (End of Segment One & 1st Semester)
- Quarter 3: Living Innovation (weeks 1-6) & Imagine the Future (weeks 7-9)
- Quarter 4: Imaging the Future (weeks 1-4) & Technological Invention (weeks 5-9)

Standards

The new Florida B.E.S.T. Standards are integrated consistently throughout all units. Students will work with complex texts, (informational and literary) to write and support claims citing textual evidence. Students will identify, compare and analyze theme, author's craft, text structure, central ideas, and text features. Students will develop sophisticated writing skills, demonstrating mastery of language conventions, narrative techniques and organizational structures. Students will engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussion and present their findings in a focused, coherent manner. Students will navigate texts with challenging vocabulary and take ownership of vocabulary through word study.

Novel Studies

Students will participate in quarterly thematic novel studies. Students will be notified of each quarter's book selection options prior to the start of the quarter or unit of study. Class sets will NOT be available; however, free PDF versions will be provided, or students are encouraged to obtain their own copy should they choose to annotate directly in the text (book). Students are not limited to purchasing a copy of the book as they may use their electronic readers for purchase or the occasional free download: (other options available)... [https://padlet.com/david_shelley/xfwjc2hpszodv].

- *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott (Segment 1)
- *Call of the Wild* by Jack London (Segment 1)
- *The Hound of the Baskervilles* Arthur Conan Doyle (Segment 1)
- *Copper Sun* by Sharon Draper (Segment 2) – ***NO FREE PDF***
- *The Outsiders* by SE Hinton (Segment 2)
- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry (Segment 2)
- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen (Segment 2)

GRADING POLICIES

Final grades are based on the following scale: A=100-90; B=89-80; C=79-70; D=69-60; F=59-0

Areas of Assessment

Students are formally assessed through tests, quizzes and projects and informally assessed within the classroom setting through participation in discussion and class work. Students will document their growth through the use of technology, portfolios, journals, and personal goal setting. Final course grades are based upon the following categories of assessments:

- Quizzes and Exams
- Essays and Collaboration Projects
- Classwork and Homework

Late Work

- **Homework:** Late homework will NOT be accepted after one week from due date, and any late assignment will receive a zero. Homework is intended to preview new material in preparation for the next lesson or review material that was covered during that day's session. As such, it is to the student's benefit that all homework assignments be completed on time. Homework will always be checked at the beginning of the class period on the day it is due. If an assignment is not in class at that time, it is considered late. Students who do not have their homework in class will be asked to notify their parents of their failure to complete the work.
- **Projects:** Major projects such as research papers or culminating unit products may be turned during the current quarter, but will not be accepted or graded after the quarter (grade) is closed.
- **Emergencies:** Exceptions to late work policies may be made on a case-by-case basis in the event of an emergency. Parent phone call or email note is required for consideration.

Monitoring Student Progress

In addition to report cards issued at the end of the quarter, students will receive mid-term progress reports. Parents are highly encouraged to obtain a **MyStudent** login for access to their student's gradebook (<http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/>) to keep informed of student progress on a more regular basis, or monitor the Grades folder in each myLearning course.

Academic Integrity

In addition to good academic performance, students should exhibit honesty and integrity. If there is any question that academic honesty and integrity are not honored, students may be required to redo assignments. Proof of dishonesty, including plagiarism, will result in disciplinary action, and an intervention course on “Academic Integrity vs. Plagiarism” may be assigned in myLearning and monitored for completion by school administration.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

Student Conduct

The 8th Grade behavior interventions are as follows:

1. Verbal reminder (maximum 3)
2. Parent contact and Detention
3. Parent contact and Discipline Referral
4. Brick & Mortar students may be re-assigned to mySchool Online after repeated non-compliance

Dress Code

Dress Code Violations will result in student being sent to Office Staff to await appropriate clothes from home (or borrow donated clothes) and a note home to be signed by parents. Continued infractions will result in lunch detention and then discipline referral. Please refer to school website (<http://csrms.pasco.k12.fl.us/>) or the *Student Planner* on **MyLearning** via **MyPascoConnect** (<http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/>) for details and pictures of appropriate vs. inappropriate school dress. Thank you for your cooperation.

Absences

It is to your child’s benefit that he or she attends school daily! No amount of make-up work or note copying can compensate for the class discussion and peer activity that your child misses when absent. However, some absences are unavoidable. It is the student’s responsibility to seek out missed work.

- Excused: If a child is absent from school the day a homework assignment or project is due and he or she was in class the day it was assigned, it is his or her responsibility to bring in the work the day he or she returns to school. Students will receive one day for every excused absence to make up class assignments and homework.
- Unexcused: Unexcused absences will not be allowed to make up class assignments or homework.

Tutoring

Tutoring availability is limited. If you are interested in tutoring, please contact Mrs. Herlocker (mherlocker@pasco.k12.fl.us) to schedule a meeting and address your concerns. Students may also send an email via the myLearning Inbox within their course. ESE students may contact their ESE Support Facilitator or Co-Teacher of record for additional assistance.

Planner

CSRMS student planners are available online via MyLearning on MyPascoConnect (<http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/>). All class work and homework assignments are posted in each course’s myLearning Modules, and on the classroom board and discussed during the class period. Every student is responsible for taking notes on assignments in his or her notebook (or digital planner) and knowing the due date for each assignment. Parents can keep informed of daily and upcoming assignments by viewing their child’s notebook or on-line planner (myLearning).

Cordially,

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