

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading**  
**Course Syllabus – 2013-2014**

**Teacher(s):** Mrs. Ellis ; Ms. Rainey; Dr. Harris

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course focuses on thoughtful and purposeful reading necessary for to interpret, comprehend, and extend understanding of the author's intent and meaning. The student will examine texts carefully and discern the author's perspective through the particular facts and details that support it. The student will read a target number of books or word count equivalent from a variety of genres, subjects, and disciplines. The student will distinguish between the concepts of theme and author's purpose. Likewise, the student will analyze recurring themes across a variety of themes, distinguishing theme from topic. The students will analyze both dynamic and static characters in prose and in plays. The student will explain the effects of figurative language, sound, form, and graphics in order to uncover meaning in literature. The student will acquire new vocabulary and use it correctly in both reading and writing about the reading. An understanding of the context necessary for reading across subject areas will be developed. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Common Core Reading Standards are organized in the following Strands:

- Reading for Literature
- Reading for Information
- Writing
- Speaking and Listening
- Language

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Independent Reading:** *25 Book Requirement* - Each student is required to read at least twenty-five books or book equivalents (approximately 1,000,000 words) each year. The materials should include traditional and contemporary literature (both fiction and non-fiction) as well as magazines, newspapers, textbooks, and electronic material. Reading should represent a diverse collection of material from at least three different literary forms and from at least five different writers. Students must keep a record of what they have read using their Reading Logs and complete a Book Project once a month.

**TEXT(S)**

(2010). *Literature: Language and literacy*. Upple Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.  
Classroom Library  
Novels

**DAILY REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Students are required to bring the following materials to class everyday:

- Tools for learning (paper, pencil, and pen)
  - Three-pronged folder with dividers (or section in binder)
  - Composition Book (journal)

The following materials should be brought to class *upon request*:

- 1 memory stick
- Colored pencils
- Glue sticks

**ATTENDANCE AND MAKE-UP POLICY**

It is the responsibility of students to determine what work they have missed due to absence. Make-up assignments, homework, and tests are the responsibility of the student. If a student is in attendance up until the day when a test, quiz, or homework assignment is due, it is my expectation the student will complete the assignment, test, or quiz the day they return to school.

**RULES**

- 1.) **Be Prepared-** Students should bring all necessary materials with them to class. This includes their student planner, binder/folder, paper, pencils, pens, homework, and any other requested supplies.
- 2.) **Be Respectful-** Students should always be courteous and polite toward other students and adults in the classroom.
- 3.) **Be On Time-** Students should be quietly sitting in their assigned seat *before* the bell rings ready to work.

**HOMEWORK POLICY**

It is our expectation that students turn all homework in on time. If a student does not turn in an assignment on time, students will receive a late point reduction. If multiple assignments continue to be turned in late, the teacher will be contacting parents to discuss the situation.

## **BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS**

Policies and procedures are a critical foundation for a fair and safe learning environment. Students will be reminded of policies and procedures throughout the year. Consequences for violations (repeated) are as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> offense Verbal Warning

2<sup>nd</sup> offense Student/Teacher Conference

3<sup>rd</sup> offense Isolation/Time Out/Detention/***Parent Contact***

4<sup>th</sup> offense Detention/Administrative Referral/***Parent Contact***

*\*Level 3 offenses will be automatically referred to Administrator.*

## **GRADING POLICY**

Class Participation/Independent Reading	30%
Tests	20%
Performance Task (Projects) Quizzes	20%
Homework	10%
Mid-Sem/Final	20%
Total Average	100%

## **Grading Scale**

A	100-90
B	89-80
C	79-70
F	69- 0




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I have read and understand the requirements of this course.

Parent's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_