

# *HENRY COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL*



## EIGHTH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

### Vision

**Henry County Middle School will provide  
a premier Personalized Learning  
experience that promotes Powerful  
Learning for Purposeful Living.**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**



## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

8<sup>th</sup> grade language arts instruction addresses students' increasing maturity and the growing sophistication of their abilities, culminating in the development by the end of grade 8 of students who are ready to succeed in high school.

The Georgia Standards of Excellence for Grade 8 incorporates activities and strategies recommended by the State of Georgia, National Standards, and Performance Standards Frameworks. Use of these and other effective strategies ensures that teaching in Henry County Public Schools results in high caliber evidence of student learning that is aligned to Global Standards.

**READING/LITERATURE** During class learners will work in many or all strands of the English Language Arts Curriculum under the Georgia Standards of Excellence: reading, writing, and language.

To further core curriculum goals, selected novels and texts are used in all middle school courses at the same grade level. There is not one overall core text; novels will vary based on availability and student needs. During both semesters the primary focus will be on both Informational Text and Literary Text. Use of personalized learning/ differentiated instruction ensures that the needs of all learners are met.

### **Independent Reading**

Reading across the curriculum is also an important component of instruction. Research shows that the more students read, the better they become academically. Our learners are expected to read, both informational and fictional texts in a variety of genres and modes of discourse, including technical texts related to various subject areas.

Additionally, learners may be required to maintain records of books read using individual book logs and demonstrate comprehension of selected texts through the presentation of individual book projects. Silent reading time may be scheduled in class; however, students are expected to read nightly at home.

**WRITING** Learners will write in a variety of informal (journals, class notes) and formal (narrative, expository, persuasive/ argumentative, and technical) modes, for a variety of purposes and audiences. In addition to teaching the form and structure of each mode, writing instruction emphasizes grammar, usage and conventions. Using mini-lessons and writing workshops, grammar is taught in the context of student writing and reading and explicitly.



Suggested Materials for Student Success:

**Below are the items that will be utilized for my class.**

- ☐ Blue and Black Pins
- ☐ Colored Markers & Colored Pencils
- ☐ Flash Drive
- ☐ 4 Composition Books (1 per term)

**Classroom Donations Needed**

- Colored construction paper
- Hand sanitizer
- Facial tissue
- Copy Paper

**Progress Report Dates:**

August 31, 2018, November 9, 2018,  
February 8, 2019, April 26, 2019

**End of Grading Dates:**

October 5, 2018, December 21, 2018, March 15, 2019,  
May 24, 2019

**GRADING SCALE**

90 – 100% = A  
80 – 89% = B  
74 – 79% = C  
73 – 70% = D  
69% and below = F

**GRADING WEIGHTS\***

The grading percentages are as follows:

- ✓ Practice ~ 35%
  - Classwork/ Lab (15%)
  - Homework (10%)
  - Notebook (10%)
- ✓ Assessments-50%
  - Tests/ Projects (25%)
  - Quizzes (10%)
  - Common Summative Assessments (15%)
- ✓ Final Exams~ 15%

\*Please note that the grading weights are outside of the county policy, but have been approved by the principal within the county guidelines. There is an additional focus on organization and completion of practice work.

**LATE WORK: Please carefully review the school's policy.**

**Guiding Philosophy**

**We believe in our learners, and they deserve an exceptional learning experience!**

**IMPORTANT CLASSROOM RULES:**

- Be respectful of your peers, teachers, yourself and your classroom environment.
- Bring required materials/ assignments everyday
- Use polite speech and body language.
- No gum, food, or drink in the classroom unless permitted.
- Your responsibility is to follow all classroom rules.

\*\*\*Students who do not follow these classroom rules will be assigned a consequence, depending on the situation.

Rewards	Consequences (May be adjusted based on circumstances)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Verbal Praise</li><li>• Hawk Bucks</li><li>• Phone Call/ Note Home</li><li>• Special Treat</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Verbal Warning</li><li>• Seat Change</li><li>• Parent Contact</li><li>• Detention/Silent Lunch</li></ul>



Grade 8 Language Arts  
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• Homework Pass

• Office Referral

The requirements and information on this syllabus are all designed with a successful year in mind. I am confident that learners will gain the necessary tools to *learn powerfully and live purposefully!* This year will begin many changes in your academic life, and it is my goal to prepare you for the road ahead, high school, which for many of you will lead to college and/or career. I want all of you to know my door is open any time for advice and help. I look forward to learning from all of you, along with teaching and guiding you. It is important to be aware that this syllabus may be adjusted at any time during the school year, to better meet the needs of the classroom and you as learners.

### Welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts!

#### Guiding Philosophy

**We believe in our learners, and they deserve an exceptional learning experience!**

Your efforts are greatly appreciated for the time dedicated to reading and discussing the information printed above. I look forward to working with each of you this year. Please complete the information on this form. Then, sign below and return it. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email.

Parent Name:	Student Name:
Parent's Phone:	Parent's Email:

I have read and discussed all expectations and policies with my child.	
	Date:
Student Signature	Date:

I have signed up for Remind 101.	
Parent Signature	Date:



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PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED PAGE TO YOUR TEACHER



HCS 2018-2019 Strategic Priorities...

- Unify Henry County around excellence in public education.
- Strengthen our core business of student learning.
- Ensure a high performing environment for all students.