



# Jefferson County Middle School

3232 Highway 296, Louisville, Ga. 30434

**STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE**

Teacher: Ms. Emma Williams and Mrs. Brandy Daniels

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**Grade Level:** 8th

**Subject:** English/Language Arts/Read180

**School phone number:** (478)-625- 7764

**School Website:** <http://www.jefferson.k12.ga.us>

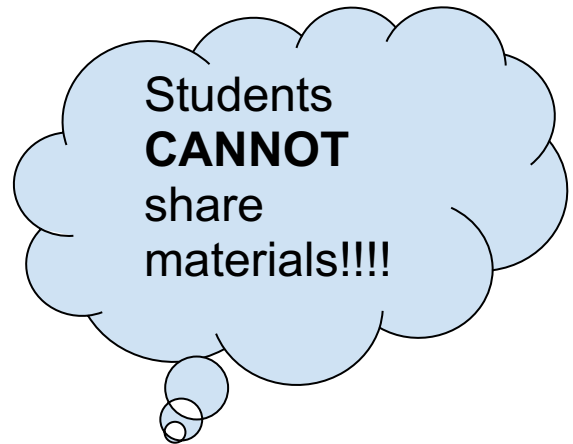
**Planning Time:** 1:30-3:00

## Course Description:

We are excited to have you in 8th Grade Language Arts! The Language Arts classes are literature-based and designed with an emphasis to help you improve your writing skills, critical thinking skills and communication skills through reading, writing, vocabulary, speaking activities and grammar exercises. Students will be exposed to, and will respond to, a wide variety of media including, but not limited to, novels, short stories, poetry, essays, newspaper articles, broadcast news reports, video clips and plays.

## Supplies for face to face learning:

- 1) Earbuds (not wireless. Only wired)
- 2) Individual hand sanitizer and tissue packs
- 3) Writing materials such as pencils, pens, erasers, highlighters, colored pencils (We suggest bringing a pencil pouch to keep all supplies in.)
- 4) Notebook paper
- 5) 2 inch binder with dividers (We will label once students return to school.)
- 6) Masks are optional



## Course Texts:

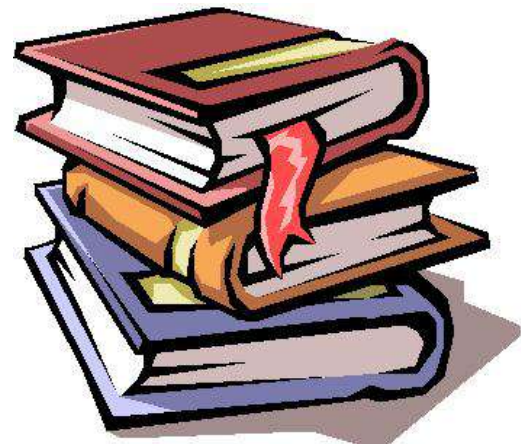
The literature textbook that will be utilized as a resource is Elements of Literature: Second Course by Holt, Rinehart, and Winston. READ180 students will utilize the READ180 rBook in conjunction with the READ180 LBook as literature and grammar resources. A textbook will not be assigned to students to take home. Textbooks will be used in class only. Students may be issued a grammar workbook for homework purposes.

## Novels that will be read this year:

- 1) The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin
- 2) Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James Swanson
- 3) 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> nine week novels will be announced at a later time

## Possible texts that will be read:

- 1) Edgar Allen Poe



- 2) Excerpts from various novels/media
- 3) Emily Dickinson

### **EXPECTATIONS/DISCIPLINE/CONSEQUENCES:**

Jefferson County Middle School's policies regarding conduct in the classroom will be strictly enforced. Guidelines for student behavior are listed in the LMS student agendas. **While No classroom disruptions will be tolerated**, all of the 8th grade teachers have been advised to address student behaviors in accordance with the PBIS initiative, the rules and regulations of Jefferson County Middle School and the Jefferson County Board of Education.

### **Classroom Expectations:**

- Arrive on Time & Prepared for Class
- Listen Carefully & Follow Instructions
- Keep Hands, Feet, and Objects to Yourself
- Be Respectful to Others
- Always Raise your Hand for Permission to Speak
- Always Get Permission Before Leaving Your Seat
- Do the work
- Do your best!



**Grading:** All assignments and assessments will be based on the Georgia ELA Standards of Excellence and will afford students the opportunity to improve academic performance and exceed the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards

### **First Unit Courses:**

The following objectives will be explored and students will progress to a greater understanding and be able to demonstrate that ***“I can....”***

### **Speaking and Listening**

- Have productive discussions with diverse partners with different ideas while expressing their own clearly.
- Interpret visual, quantitative, and oral information presented in diverse media and formats and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study.

### **Writing**

- Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

## Reading, Informational Text

- Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details and provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.
- Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and explain how it is conveyed in the text.
- Integrate information presented in different media formats as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.
- Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not. Compare and contrast one author's presentation of events with that of another.
- Read and comprehend literary nonfiction proficiently.

## Language

- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
- Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.
- Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

***\*\*The teacher reserves the right to adjust the syllabus and to differentiate instruction as needed to meet the needs of students and ensure academic success.***

Students and Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Please sign the appropriate sections below and return this sheet to me. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me.

**Student**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to the following course guidelines and I will do the best that I can to be successful in this class.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to the following course guidelines and will do the best that I can to help my child be successful in this class

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information:

Phone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred way of Contact (please circle)

Phone

E-Mail

If you prefer contacted by phone what is the best time to reach you? \_\_\_\_\_

Any other information I need to know about your child?