

8th Grade Language Arts Syllabus

Mrs. Roth

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Welcome to 8th grade Language Arts! Students will read and analyze different literary genres including fiction, non-fiction, poetry and drama. Students will 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.

Supplies:

- one composition book,
- one plastic pocket folder (purple)
- paper
- mechanical pencils or regular pencils with a pocket silent pencil sharpener
- ear buds (plug-in type)
- highlighters
- colored pencils
- post-it notes.

Students must have a book with them at ALL times for designated silent reading time or in the event that work is completed early. If students do not know what they should read, I can provide book suggestions.

COURSE SCHEDULE

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. 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/xfwj2hpszodv].

- *Quarter 1-Call of the Wild*-Jack London and *Lord of the Flies*-William Golding
- *Quarter 2-The Watsons Go to Birmingham*- Christopher Paul Curtis and *To Kill a Mockingbird*-Harper Lee
- *Quarter 3-The Giver*-Lois Lowry and *Matched*-Aly Conde
- *Quarter 4-TBA*

Grading: Grades will be assigned using a points system. All assignments will be divided into two categories: assignments or assessments. Everything is weighted the same, although the points for assignments will vary, depending upon the assignment. Please refer to the Canvas Gradebook to track student grades and assignments.

Assignments: The assignments category will include classwork and homework.

Classwork: Students will keep an Interactive Notebook. Some of their classwork will be completed in this notebook. Some entries will be graded for completion and participation, while others will be completed for accuracy. In addition, students will have assignments that are completed outside of their Interactive Notebook and turned in separately.

Homework: Students will be expected to read for at least 20 minutes each evening. In addition to reading, students can expect to have homework **up to four times a week**. Homework could include reading, written assignments, reviewing notes, online practice, and/or studying or completing work not finished in class. Please check MyStudent each night for homework assignments. Students are responsible for keeping up with and recording their homework assignments.

Assessments: Students will have assessments throughout the year to determine their proficiency level of a concept. These could be in a variety of formats, like a performance task, short response, essay, multiple choice, project, etc. Throughout the year, students will be given writing assignments and projects.

Late Work: Students are expected to have their work in on time. Late work will be penalized with a reduction of points. Some assignments, depending upon the nature of the assignment, cannot be turned in late at all and will result in the student receiving a 0%, without the opportunity to make up the assignment.

Make-Up Work: Students who are absent will have one day per day of *excused* absence to complete their work. Please note that any work assigned prior to an absence is not considered make-up work and is due at the start of class upon the student's return. It is the student's responsibility to contact a classmate or the teacher to get make up work.

Grade Scale: A=90%-100% , B=80%-89% , C=70%-79% , D=60%-69% = D, F=below 60%

Contact Information: Call the school at 813-346-1200 or e-mail me at croth@pasco.k12.fl.us

Student Rules and Behavioral Expectations: Students are expected to follow the code of conduct as outlined in the Rushe planner on MyLearning. Please review the expectations with your student.

BYOD: Devices are going to be limited this year due to the mixture of online and in-person learning. If students currently have a device or are planning to purchase a device to use this year, it would help if they could bring it to class with them. It is NOT mandatory. If students plan on bringing a device to CSRMS please complete and sign the B.Y.O.D policy.

Online Programs

Students in Language Arts will be required to have online access to complete many of their assignments each week. They can access the web from home and the local library

We have many opportunities to stay connected with what is going on at school and in class. Here are some ways to keep connected.

E-Mail - Do not hesitate to e-mail me at croth@pasco.k12.fl.us if you have a question or concern.

MyStudent: This is an online gradebook that parents and students should access daily to see upcoming assignments, missing work and scores on graded assignments. I will send home instruction sheets for creating your own MyStudent account.

Text Reminders – I’ve signed up for an account on Remind101.com that will allow me to send a text out to students and parents who sign up. This will be used to send reminders about tests and/or quizzes, projects, homework, or other important news. Please see directions for signing up at the bottom of this document.

Weekly Agenda I will post a tentative agenda on the board in class on Mondays. It is the student’s responsibility to write down their assignments at that time and monitor their assignments/grades continuously on MyStudent. If a student is absent on a Monday, it is their responsibility to retrieve the assignments on MyStudent and/or confer with a classmate. I will **not** notify parents of missing work or a drop in a student’s grade. **In 8th grade, we are preparing your child for high school. Part of that is teaching them how to be responsible for their own learning.**

Teacher reserves the right to amend the syllabus at any time.

Complete the following information, cut on the dotted line and return to class

Dear Parent/Guardian(s),

I am honored to have your son/daughter in my class this year. It is my goal to expand their depth of knowledge in literary and informational text analysis and writing skills and show them the joys of being a life-long learner. Please read over the course syllabus and then print and sign your name, provide an e-mail address, and the best number to reach you during school hours on the lines provided. Please also check whether or not you would like the team to include your child’s name on the back of our team t-shirts.

Thank you,
Mrs. Roth

Print parent/guardian name

signature

phone number

e-mail address _____ @ _____

Print student name _____ Period _____

Advanced ELA

Sign up for important updates from Mrs. Roth.

Get information for **Charles S. Rushe Middle School** right on your phone—not on handouts.

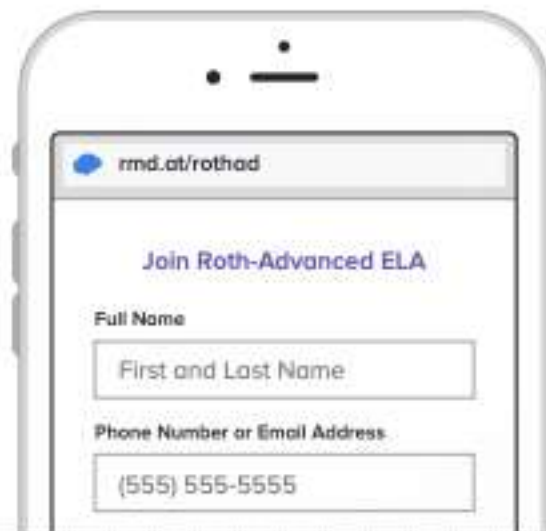
Pick a way to receive messages for **Roth-Advanced ELA**:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/rothad

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



B If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message [@rothad](#) to the number **81010**.

If you're having trouble with **81010**, try texting [@rothad](#) to (813) 699-3462.

* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/rothad on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

Basic ELA

Sign up for important updates from Mrs. Roth.

Get information for **Charles S. Rushe Middle School** right on your phone—not on handouts.

Pick a way to receive messages for **Roth-Basic ELA**:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/b8ghba

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



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Text the message [@b8ghba](#) to the number **81010**.

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