

Eighth Grade Literacy
2017-2018 School Year
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Message from the Teacher

Nitschmann Middle School is committed to cultivating a respectful community of innovative learners who are socially competent citizens ready to meet the challenges of their future.

Communication

Please utilize email to initiate communication about needs or concerns. Email is checked several times a day.

Course Description

8th grade literacy is a class based upon the Common Core Standards for Language Arts in Pennsylvania.

Student Textbooks & Materials

The Language of Literature, McDougal and Littell

Chasing Lincoln's Killer, Swanson

The Giver, Lowry

Fahrenheit 451, Bradbury

The Contender, Lipsyte

Soldier X, Wolfson

Various short stories from Jack London and other classic authors.

Required Student Supplies

Students need a notebook and a folder.

Major Course Objectives

- Students read, understand, and respond to works of literature and informational text- with emphasis on comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and making connections among ideas and between texts with a focus on textual evidence.
- Students will be able to identify the various purposes and genres of reading.
- Students will be able to understand, to analyze, and to evaluate readings from a variety of texts and to apply that learning to academic, personal, and professional contexts.
- Students will be able to identify, analyze, and evaluate the use of various literary terms and techniques within text.
- Students will be able to increase, analyze, and evaluate vocabulary by reading a variety of texts and utilizing various vocabulary strategies as well as responding appropriately to text by using supporting evidence.
- Students will be able to meet and master the common core and state standards for reading and writing.
- Students will be able to engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions on topics, texts, issues, or others' ideas and express their own

clearly.

Major Projects

Quarter 1- Map and chronology based on information in Chasing Lincoln's Killer.

Quarter 2- Text Based Analysis and research project.

Quarter 3- Create a Curriculum Project.

Quarter 4- Change project

*Ongoing- Various student generated projects will transpire throughout the year.

*All assignments are subjects to change based on student's needs and interests.

Teacher Homework Policy

Students will be expected to read independently. A variety of thought provoking essays and reports will be completed by students to document their reading.

Teacher Grading Policy

Students will be graded on tests, quizzes, classwork, projects and independent reading. The student's grade will be calculated by dividing points earned by the total amount of points. Assignments will be posted to parent portal within 10 school days. Assignments will be debited 10% for each day late. Teachers will offer 4 opportunities a week for extra help.

Classroom Management Plan

Student Expectations	Consequences
Be here...be ready	Verbal warning
Be respectful	Student-teacher conference
Be responsible	Teacher detention
Follow instructions the first time	Parent/Guardian contact
Follow all classroom procedures	Code of conduct referral

Extra Help

M-Th 3:00-3:25, unless teacher has a meeting.

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