

**Course Syllabus**  
**(2016– 2017)**  
***Grade 8 English Department***

**Course Description**

The eighth grade English Language Arts will develop students' critical thinking skills, strategic approach to reading a wide variety of texts, and strengthen students' composition and vocabulary foundation.

**Course Structure**

<b>SOL #</b>	<b>SOL Strand and Content (See above for more detailed explanation)</b>
8.1	The student will use interviewing techniques to gain information.
8.2	The student will develop and deliver oral presentations in groups and individually.
8.3	The students will analyze, develop, and produce creative or informational media messages.
8.4	The student will apply knowledge of word origins, analogies, and figurative language to extend vocabulary development within authentic texts.
8.5	The student will read and analyze a variety of fictional texts, narrative nonfiction and poetry.
8.6	The students will read, comprehend, and analyze a variety of nonfiction texts.
8.7	The student will write in a variety of forms, including narration, exposition, persuasion, and informational.
8.8	The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure, and paragraphing.
Specific Units: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fiction and Nonfiction Texts</li><li>• Persuasive and Expository Essays</li><li>• Writing Strategies and Vocabulary</li><li>• Literary Terms/Vocabulary</li></ul>	

**James Solomon Russell Middle School**  
**19400 Christanna Highway**  
**Lawrenceville, VA 23868**  
**(434) 848-2132    FAX (434) 848-6201**

Dr. Virginia Berry  
Principal

Latonia Hutcheson  
Assistant Principal

### **Course Textbook**

Glencoe Literature Course 3 and other supplement materials.

### **Grading Procedure**

- |             |       |
|-------------|-------|
| • Project   | – 10% |
| • Classwork | – 20% |
| • Homework  | – 10% |
| • Tests     | – 40% |
| • Quizzes   | – 30% |

### **About My Teaching Style**

The Eighth Grade English teachers use a personal teaching style which incorporates the use of hands on learning, modeling, coaching, differentiated instruction and critical thinking skills. We encourage collaborative learning among the students to enhance classroom discussions; higher order thinking and problem based learning to develop independent learners.

### **Classroom Expectations**

The Eighth Grade English teachers expect the students to follow the guidelines and procedures listed:

- Be on time
- Be prepared for class – bring all materials (pencils, paper, books )
- Be respectful/honest
- Be on task
- Be responsible
- Be accountable for all procedures and guidelines outlined in the Russell Middle School Handbook.

School Phone:        848-2132

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                             [jonesfinneym@brunswickcps.org](mailto:jonesfinneym@brunswickcps.org)\

Sincerely,

Michelle Finney

Lakisha Gillus

Hester J. Mallory

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**Syllabus Signature Page**

To be filled out by the parent or guardian and the student.

**Student Portion:**

I have read and understand the expectations of this class

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

**Parent / Guardian Portion:**

I have reviewed the expectations of this class with my child.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Email

Please let me know if I can help explain anything about the course or class expectations. If you need me to contact you, simply circle below.

Please contact me; I have questions about the course expectations.

Yes

No