

8th Grade English Syllabus

Mrs. Loree Pals

room and office 0211

Course Description:

8th Grade English Language Arts is a course that focuses on creating thoughtful readers and writers. This course emphasizes information literacy, research, critical thinking, elements of literature, text structures, argument writing, analysis of arguments. The ultimate goal is to produce life-long readers and writers who can be successful in future endeavors.

Units of Study: Semester One

Unit One Focus: Reader's and Writer's for Life

Topic 1: Reading for Life & Developing Workshop Expectations

Topic 2: Communicating in Reading & Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

Topic 3: Rules of a Conversation/Group Dynamic

Unit Two Focus: Elements of Literature

Topic 1: Depth in Narrative Writing & Theme & Central Idea

Topic 2: Pacing & Symbolism & Point of View and Characterization

Topic 3: Writing the Narrative & Word Choice

Units of Study: Semester Two

Unit Three Focus: Information Literacy

Topic 1: Information Analysis and Literacy

Topic 2: Infographics & Critical Thinking/ Text Analysis

Topic 3: Informational Writing

Unit Four Focus: Art and Analysis of the Argument

Topic 1: Logical Fallacies, Argument, Claims

Topic 2: Research Skills

Topic 3: Writing an Argument

Other Units/Skills of Study:

Presentations

Grammar

Vocabulary

Research

Daily Supplies:

Writing utensils (pen/pencil/highlighter)

Pocket folder

Loose-leaf paper

Required texts*

Grading Policy:

Practice-20%

Process-15%

Assessment-55%

Final Exams-10%

MONTROSE JR. HIGH SCHOOL POLICIES:

Grading Scale: 90-100 A 80-89 B 70-79 C 60-69 D 59 or below F

Late Work

If an assignment is turned in past the due date, the most the assignment can be worth is 75% of the total points. After one week, the most the assignment can be worth is 50% of the total points.

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Quizzes and Tests: In the event of an excused absence, quizzes and tests can be made up within a reasonable amount of time anytime during a unit. Quizzes and tests from previous units may not be made up and will receive zero credit. Retakes can be accommodated for failing grades but must be approved by the teacher prior.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Unless otherwise stated, all assignments are to be turned in and completed independently. Students who cheat on or plagiarize assignments may receive a 0% as well as a disciplinary consequence. The consequences for multiple occurrences of cheating are cumulative across subject areas. See department policy.

Tardy Policies:

Be in the door before the bell rings

Electronic Device/Cell Phone Policies:

In Locker--Students using phones will have their phones confiscated and brought to the front office

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

Our classroom policies can be summed up in one word: RESPECT

THE CLASSROOM:

1. Please refrain from eating or drinking in our rooms.
2. Please pick up after yourselves and your peers.
3. Please do not deface desks, books, or any other school or Mrs. Pals' property.

EACH OTHER:

1. Do not talk while others are talking.
2. We are a classroom community-please do not exclude your peers.
3. Be respectful of the opinions of your peers.
4. Keep your hands, feet, belongings, foul language, and negativity to yourself.

YOUR TEACHERS:

1. Do not talk while I am talking. If you are talking while I am talking, I will ask you to be quiet. If I have to ask more than once, the last person talking will be gifted with a consequence-NO QUESTIONS ASKED.
2. If you disagree with a grade, please come see me before or after class to discuss it. I am open to all questions and concerns and promise to address them with an open-mind.
3. Turn in your assignments on time and complete them to the best of your abilities. Assignments are due at the beginning of class-not the middle, not the end, not after. No emailed assignments will be accepted unless cleared with me ahead of time.
4. Please wait until you are given permission to pack up your belongings. We dismiss you, not the bell.
5. Keep me in the loop. If there is something prohibiting you from doing your best, let me know. My door/inbox is always open and I will do our best to remedy the problem as soon as possible. I want you to be successful and will approach each situation with an open mind and no judgments.

OFFICE HOURS:

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I am available after school in office 3:45 p.m. and by phone until 4:00 p.m.; I am also available during the school by request. Send an email to me (lpals@montrose.k12.mo.us) or leave a note for me if you need me for extra help, to make-up a missed assignment, to express a concern, or just to chat. I will answer your questions as quickly as humanly possible. Please allow at least 24 hours for email responses.

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Parents and Guardians—Please read the syllabus, fill out and sign this form, and then circle your preferred method of contact. Please don't ever hesitate to call or send email to me.

Student Signature:_____

Student Email:_____

Parent/Guardian Signature:_____ Preferred

Method of Contact (Circle):

Email:_____/ Phone Number:_____

Other notes or ideas you would like for me to know or learn: