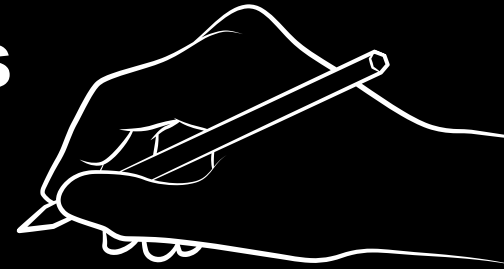


# Language Arts 8 Syllabus

Ms. Ramage: Periods 1, 2, 5 ✉ [cramage@amherst.k12.va.us](mailto:cramage@amherst.k12.va.us)

Mrs. Martin: Periods 2, 5 ✉ [mbmartin@amherst.k12.va.us](mailto:mbmartin@amherst.k12.va.us)



## Course Description

Welcome to 8th grade English! During this course, you will continue to grow as an expert learner. You will engage with a variety of genres and text types, including folktales, short stories, poems, novels, and literary nonfiction. You will develop your ability to think deeply and make connections to the wider world. Through reading, writing, and research, you will build comprehension, language, and writing skills. You will collaborate with your peers, engage in evidence based discussions, and present your ideas in a variety of formats. You will set goals and reflect on your learning.

## Supplies



Chromebook (charged)	Notebook	2-Pocket Folder	Pencils	Pens (optional)
Glue stick	Headphones (not Bluetooth)	Colored Pencils (at least 12pk)	Highlighters (6 colors; optional)	Loose-Leaf Paper (college ruled)

## Types of Assignments



### Grading Scale

100% - 90% = A  
89% - 80% = B  
79% - 70% = C  
69% - 60% = D  
59% - 0% = F

Assignments and grades are based off of the Virginia Standards of Learning from 2024 linked on my Amherst Middle School website.

- **Quizzes/Tests** - reading comprehension, sentence writing, grammar, vocabulary
- **Writing** - You will plan and write for a variety of purposes.
- **Discussions/Presentations** - Two important components of the English curriculum are speaking and listening. You will participate in both class and small group discussions and/or presentations.
- **Projects** - I want you to have opportunities to discover your own ideas and talents, be creative, and collaborate and share with others. Therefore, you will be asked to demonstrate your understanding in a variety of ways and with a variety of digital tools.
- **Homework** - I will expect that each of you complete your assigned Lexia minutes each week. I also encourage you to read for your enjoyment each day. There may be the need to study from time to time.
- **Written Reflections** - Often these are brief and focused, but after major presentations or projects, you will be asked to reflect on your learning and, if applicable, your group's cooperation.



Critical Thinking



Creative Thinking



Communication



Collaboration



Citizenship



## Inclusion

Our class will be one where everyone belongs and everyone learns. This means that all of our interactions will be respectful of diversity: culture, nationality, race, ethnicity, disability, economic status, religion, etc... Our learning environment will be one of trust and safety. I encourage you to get to know and learn from each other. We are all different, and these differences will make this class better. You do not have to be friends with everyone, but you are expected to show respect to everyone at all times.

## Attendance & Tardies

We will follow the school attendance policy. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed. It is best that you see your teacher to see what specifically you missed. You will be given the number of days absent plus one to make up missing work.

Ex: If you missed two days, you will have two days plus one--three days--to make up your missed work.

I will do my best to remind you of missing work, but keep in mind I have over 80 students--you just have you.

## Conduct & Discipline Policy

Students are expected to behave in class and online in a polite, respectful manner that does not violate the rights of others. In addition to being respectful of others, students should be on time, on task, and prepared to learn every day. Take responsibility for your own learning and have a positive attitude. Always do your best and encourage those around you to do the same! The following are some possible consequences for inappropriate behavior:

- Conference with teacher, student, and/or parent/guardian.
- Loss of privileges, detention, or in-school suspension.
- Referral to school personnel (administrator, counselor, nurse)
- Referral to outside professionals (medical, psychological, legal)
- Behavior plan implementation
- Out-of-school suspension



## Academic Integrity

All work in this class is expected to be your own and completed by you. If you receive help from an article, book, website, another person, etc., you must indicate that on the assignment. This is called citing your sources. When you take credit for someone else's work, it is plagiarism. If you are ever unsure about whether you have correctly given credit to a source, please ask, and I will help you.

This includes the use of AI. We will embrace the responsible use of AI as a learning tool while maintaining academic integrity. For each assignment, I will clearly specify the allowed level of AI usage, ranging from no AI use to full AI collaboration. When AI is used, you must always cite this assistance, provide links to AI interactions, and include your original work. You are expected to follow these guidelines and be prepared to discuss and evaluate AI contributions. This policy will help you learn digital, proper citation practices, and critical thinking while you develop essential writing and analytical skills. Remember, the goal is for everyone to learn and grow in their abilities. AI is part of our current environment, so we will need to learn how to effectively and responsibly use it.

“ At Amherst Middle School, we inspire a passionate curiosity while fostering respect, responsibility, and resilience to empower every student, every day. ”

# Classroom Procedures & Expectations

Entering Class	Class Materials
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enter the classroom quietly and respectfully.</li> <li>• Find your assigned seat and check the board for what materials you need.</li> <li>• The board will also have a task for you to do while I take attendance.</li> <li>• You should be quiet and ready for me when I start class.</li> <li>• If there is bell work, you should be working on it--not talking.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily, you will need your notebook, something to write with, and your <u>charged</u> Chrome Book.</li> <li>• I will inform you the day before if you will need your colored pencils, highlighters, or glue stick.</li> </ul>
Cell Phone	Hall Pass
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cell phones are not allowed in class.</li> <li>• Cell phones should be turned off and in your locker during the school day.</li> <li>• If you are caught with a cell phone in class, the phone will be sent to the office, parents will be contacted, and code of conduct will be followed accordingly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the restroom between classes, or ask as soon as you arrive to class.</li> <li>• No more than two people will be allowed out of the room at a time.</li> <li>• You must use your agenda as a pass; no agenda means you aren't leaving.</li> <li>• Your agenda is your hall pass. Make sure you have it!</li> </ul>
Food / Drink / Gum	Leaving Class
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You are allowed to have water in class.</li> <li>• Fill your water bottle between classes.</li> <li>• No food is allowed in class unless you have a medical need noted in the office.</li> <li>• You may chew gum, but please throw it away in the trash when done. If I see it or hear it, it will end up in the trash. If I find gum on or in desks, no gum will be allowed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The teacher will dismiss you, not the bell.</li> <li>• Do not line up or gather at the door unless otherwise directed.</li> <li>• You must clean up your area before you will be dismissed from the class.</li> <li>• You are responsible for you, but also your group/table.</li> </ul>

Every procedure  
has a purpose: to  
help us learn better!