

English 8 Information Sheet

Teachers' Contact Information:

Naomi Williams

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Classroom: 104, 105, 106

Office: 103C

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Writing utensils (pencils, blue pens, or black pens)
- 1 notebook
- A folder for all English materials
- An independent reading book (can be from home or checked out from our media center)
- iPad (provided by the school district)

Of Note:

- As a class, we will be reading a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. These texts, as well as other literature choices offered in our book clubs, may contain some sensitive material for some students. If you have any concerns, please contact your teacher.
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KEY POINTS:

- English 8 includes reading, writing, and grammar. Students will be expected to work independently, with a partner, and in small groups with fiction, non-fiction, and poetry texts throughout the year.
 - Students are responsible for any material they miss due to absences.
 - Email is our primary means of parent communication. Please make sure the school has your correct email on file.
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GRADING POLICIES:

- Formative assessments (quizzes, in-class activities, homework) will make up 20% of the quarter grade; summative assessments (essays, tests, projects) will make up 80% of the quarter grade.
 - The semester final exam will make up 10% of the semester final grade.
 - If a student desires to rewrite an assignment/re-take a test, he or she needs to conference with Mrs. Williams for approval first.
 - Late work for formative assessments will be accepted for partial credit until the end of the unit. Late summatives or revisions will be accepted. Teachers will determine set due dates for retakes.
 - Cheating on an assignment results in an automatic zero. Students will need to meet with the teacher to arrange possible make-up work and parent contact.
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GRADING SYSTEM:

While it may seem a little different from past grade levels, our department uses standards based grading. This grading system is an accurate measure of your student's mastery of national and state standards. Rather than assigning different point values for various assignments and assessments, this system will communicate the level of understanding your student consistently shows for each standard.

Both tests and homework will be graded on the 4-point proficiency scale, so students can clearly see where they excel or where they need to continue learning and improving. Some homework assignments will be given points, while others

will show up as turned in (T) or missing (M) in Infinite Campus. If a student does not complete the practice assignments, then this will naturally show in their performance on graded assessments.

STANDARDS BASED GRADING SCALE:

Exemplary - understanding of standard exceeds grade level expectations

Proficient - understanding meets grade level expectations

Developing - understanding partially meets grade level expectations

Basic - understanding minimally meets grade level expectations

Not Proficient - little understanding or does not attempt grade level expectations

F 0	Basic 25%-44%	Developing 45%-64%	Proficient 65%-84%	Exemplary 85%-100%
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TRADITIONAL GRADING SCALE (for comparison)

F 0-60%	D 60-70%	C 70-80%	B 80-90%	A 90-100%
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In order to determine students' final grade, the proficiency scale will be translated into a letter grade of 'A' being an average of exemplary scores and of 'D' being an average of basic scores. The grading system will show your child's mastery of national and state standards for English 8.

Switching from a traditional points based grading scale to standards based can be confusing at first for parents and students. For more information on this grading scale or any future assignments, please feel free to e-mail.

We appreciate you taking the time to read this with your son/daughter. We look forward to a fantastic year in English 8!