

Course Description, Content and Objectives

English 8 reinforces and builds on the grammar and punctuation, writing, reading, and vocabulary skills learned in English 7. Throughout the year you will complete units on poetry and poetry writing, The Diary of Anne Frank, "Flowers for Algernon," various short stories, non-fiction article analysis, and various other subjects. In addition, students will write frequently, focusing on audience, purpose, and organization.

Course Text(s)

- Holt Elements of Language (text book kept in class)
- Holt Elements of Literature (text book kept in class)
- Variety of supplemental materials

Course Assessment Measures

We will be working on several different units throughout the school year, and each unit will contain its own assignments and projects. Students will be expected to complete all unit work and to give 100% during class time. Occasionally homework will be assigned pertaining to the daily lessons. Homework **MUST** be completed on time. Additionally, each nine weeks every student begins with a score of 15 / 15 in class participation.

Throughout the year, students will be specifically evaluated on the following:

- Homework
- Tests and quizzes
- Projects
- Class activities
- Participation and behavior in class

Grading Criteria

In this course, the following grading scale is employed:

91-100 = A

81-90= B

70-80= C

60-69= D

0-59 = F

Please note, there the total grade is calculated by an average of all assignments, quizzes, and tests.

Course Policies

Classroom Rules

- RESPECT your teachers and your classmates at all times.
- Be on Time to class every day. That means that you must be in your seat when the bell rings. If you are late 3 times without a pass, you will be assigned detention.
- Be Prepared for class. In addition to your journal and a pencil, you will be responsible for knowing what other items (notes, homework, etc.) you will need for class on any given day. Always check the assignments board in the front of the room.

Consequences for violation of the rules

- Step 1: Verbal Warning
- Step 2: Given instruction to wait after class to speak with teacher and loss of one class participation point
- Step 3: Written up, loss of two participation points, sent to office, and phone call to parent / guardian

* Some actions may cause instructor to bypass steps one and two and go directly to step three. (Examples; fighting, obscene language or action toward others, throwing objects, etc. . .)

Text Book

Text books for English 8 will remain in the classroom. If you need to take one home for any reason, you will need to sign it out. The majority of our lessons will come from PowerPoint print outs and guided notes that go along with the information in the text book.

Assignment Journal

Each student must bring his or her assignment journal to class and record the following: the lesson for the day, homework, and grades.

If you do not bring your assignment journal and a writing utensil with you to class, you will LOSE A PARTICIPATION POINT.

Homework

- Occasionally homework will be assigned pertaining to the daily lessons. Homework **MUST** be completed on time . . .
- **Late homework under 20 points receives NO CREDIT.** Exceptions will be made for large projects that are worth more than 20 points; 10% will be taken off each day that large projects are late.
- If absent when the homework is assigned, the student will receive the same amount of days to complete the assignment as he or she is absent.

Tests and Quizzes

- Students will be given at least one week notice for tests in order to prepare appropriately. However, **quizzes may be given at any time.**
- If a student is absent the day of a test or quiz, it **MUST** be made up upon his or her return to school. If a student is absent the day before a test, he or she will still be expected to take the test with the rest of the class. It is up to each student to appropriately prepare for tests!

Fire Drills and Evacuations

- In the occurrence of a fire drill or building evacuation, students will quickly and quietly exit the classroom in a single file line toward the doors by the art room (entrance #3). Roll will be taken immediately upon gathering in the parking lot, so all students should stay quiet and together in a group with the class.

Hall Passes

- Students must use the folder in the front of the room to sign out. In addition, students must get their journals signed by Mrs. Pearson or Mr. Thompson to leave the room.
- Unless it's an emergency, the hall pass may **ONLY BE USED** when there is no instruction taking place. Do not overuse the hall pass.

Cheating Policy

- If you are caught cheating you will receive a **ZERO** for your test, assignment, homework, paper, project, etc., AND you will be written up. **Plagiarism IS cheating.**

Required Materials

- Pencil - EVERY DAY
- Class folder for English only
- Assignment journal