8th Grade Enriched Language Arts

Course Objectives for Students

1. To foster creative and critical thinking, and the formation of new questions and ideas.
2. To create a foundation of reasoned opinion through spirited debate.
3. To improve the capacity to communicate in writing and speech.
4. To engage in close reading as a step toward interpreting and analyzing texts.
5. To practice skills as both independent and group learners and leaders.
6. To engage in composition with a strong emphasis on revision.
7. To improve writing skills during mini-lessons.
8. To develop an awareness of literature as a reflection of the world.
9. To recognize and utilize interdisciplinary connections.

Mentor Texts

1. Major Works:
   - The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian
   - To Kill a Mockingbird

2. Additional literature includes, but is not limited to:
   - Sandra Cisneros………………..“My Name” and “The House on Mango Street”
   - Roald Dahl……………………..“Lamb to the Slaughter”
   - A.B. Guthrie…………………….“The Bargain”
   - George Ella Lyon……………..“Where I’m From”
   - Edgar Allan Poe………………..“The Tell-Tale Heart” and “The Black Cat”
   - Kurt Vonnegut………………….“Harrison Bergeron”

Readings may be substituted/changed during the course of the year.

3. Clips from The Great American Read

Reading Workshop

Students in Enriched Language Arts will undertake an independent study of a topic of their choosing through Reading Workshop. They will complete a comparative literary analysis of the books they read related to this topic and complete a research project that identifies a question and
extends their understanding of this topic. This independent study will take place over the course of the year.

*RNote*: Students will have access to an in-class library for Reading Workshop, but are encouraged to supplement their reading choices with books found in the school library or at home. As the teacher, may not have read all of the books students are reading, please be aware that they may come across some mature content. Please contact Ms. Salgado if you have any concerns.

**Greek and Latin Root Word Study**

Students will begin a review of Greek and Latin root words to help improve their vocabulary.

**Evaluation/Grades**

Students will be evaluated using a point system with the following categories:

- Summative Writing Assessments
- Process Writing Assessments
- Classwork
- Homework
- Other Evaluations

Please note that participation in an Enriched Language Arts class does not guarantee a placement in an Honors English class at the high school. Please see the district website for the explanation of expectations.

**Class Requirements**

1. **Writing**
   
   Students can expect a major writing assignment every 2-3 weeks, unless a special project is assigned. In addition, we will have smaller assignments appropriate for class or homework. Students will be encouraged to explore descriptive, narrative, persuasive, expository, analytical, and creative writing.

2. **Class**
   
   Course work will include both independent and group work. We will emphasize Participation respect for each other’s ideas and opinions. Class participation includes listening, reflecting, and responding appropriately.

3. **Homework**
   
   A student needs to have completed homework in order to fully participate in class. No extra credit will be accepted until late work is turned in. If homework is a continual problem, students will be required to stay after school for extra help and support. (Parents/Guardians will be given 24 hour notice if extra help and support are needed.) Failure to do homework will seriously hurt final grades. Students are strongly encouraged to come to room C-315 after school and stay if they are missing work. Students will not earn credit for homework more than one day late. Late essays/major projects will drop one grade a day.
**Class Policies**

1. **Absences:** Whether a student is out due to illness, athletics, field trips, vacations, or rehearsals, it is that student’s responsibility to see Ms. Salgado. If a student is absent on the day work is assigned, that student will be given a reasonable extension.

2. **Cheating:** A student who illegitimately claims work as his/her own, will receive a 0 for that assignment, as will a student who willingly lets another person copy an assignment intended as independent work. Students will receive no credit if caught cheating on a test or quiz.

3. **Teacher Assistance:** Students are strongly encouraged to come during lunch or after school for additional help or challenges.

Please contact Ms. Salgado at (892-3470, ext. 7315) or esalgado@wssd.org if you have any questions/concerns. A Google web page is also linked to Strath Haven Middle School’s website with homework assignments updated daily.