

8th Grade Language Arts

Course Objectives for Students

1. To practice and develop reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills.
2. To foster creative and critical thinking, and the formation of new questions and ideas.
3. To practice skills as both independent and group learners.
4. To engage in composition based upon the writing process, with a strong emphasis on revision.
5. To improve grammar skills during mini-lessons focusing on specific rules.
6. To recognize and utilize interdisciplinary connections.
7. To develop the self-confidence, self-discipline, and organizational skills necessary for high school.

Mentor Texts

Literature includes, but is not limited to...

Sherman Alexi..... selections from *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*
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.

Reading Workshop

In addition to reading mentor texts, students will be participating in the Reading Workshop program to improve their reading comprehension, fluency, and stamina. Time will be provided in class to read books chosen by the students, but students will also be required to read at least an additional two hours a week outside of class. Students should plan their schedules accordingly.

Note: 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 weighted esystem with the following categories:

- Classwork 45%
- Homework/
Asynchronous 20%
- Process Writing 25%
- Summative Writing 10%

Please note that assignments are given at three levels: challenge level/black diamond, work for students who want a challenge or hope to be recommended for honors (H) placement in 9th grade; on grade level/blue square, grade level work required in 8th grade language arts to be recommended to College Prep (CP) in 9th grade; and green circle, for students who require modified assignments.

A full explanation of high school placement expectations is provided on the district website.

Class Requirements

<u>Writing</u>	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.
<u>Class Participation</u>	Course work will include both independent and group work. We will emphasize respect for each other's ideas and opinions. Class participation includes listening, reflecting, and responding appropriately.
<u>Homework</u>	A student needs to have completed homework in order to fully participate in class. <u>No</u> 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. Failure to do homework will seriously hurt final grades. Students are strongly encouraged come to room C-315 after school/ virtual office hours 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.

Technology:

In Eighth Grade Language Arts, students will interact with the approved applications on WSSD's permission form previously sent out. Additionally, students will create an account through Flipgrid to allow for students to interact with one another and showcase their work throughout the year. By signing the syllabus, parents, you agree to allow your child to create an account with Flipgrid.

VIRTUAL EXPECTATIONS			
Be Prepared	Be Respectful	Be Responsible	Be Positive
Make sure your technology is charged	Respect the learning process	Engage in virtual learning activities	Welcome challenges and opportunities in our virtual class with an <u>open mind</u>
Look over agenda/schedule	Respect your teacher	Independent work	Be supportive of your peers
Headphones	Respect your classmates	Group work	Be supportive of yourself
Notes	Mute yourself when asked to do so	Conferencing with teacher virtually	Ask questions
Class work/homework		Class discussion	
CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS			
Be Prepared	Be Respectful	Be Responsible	Be Positive
Bring all of your materials to class each day (Chromebook, independent reading book, writing notebook writing utensil). Complete your homework and put it on your desk with your agenda as soon as you get to your seat	Raise your hand to speak. Stay in your seat unless it is an emergency or you have permission to do otherwise. Listen & be respectful to speakers: sit up straight, track the speaker, & raise your hand with questions. Keep your hands to yourself.	Be on time, tell the truth, and show accountability for your actions.	Maintain a positive attitude during class and persevere through challenging situations and assignments.

Please contact Ms. Salgado at esalgado@wssd.org (parents/guardians) or esalgado@wssdgmail.org (students) if you have any questions/concerns.

Please sign and return by the end of the first week of school.

Student signature:

<https://forms.gle/9BUkCUH2vZvyuaob7>

Parent Signature:

<https://forms.gle/iAbgGDsVQVT4BdpEA>