

Welcome to 8th grade English!

Mrs. Whittington

whittington.cheryl@tcamail.org

Course Description

Writing and Grammar for 8th grade is a strong academic course that provides students with a basis for a clear understanding of basic English grammar and for increasing proficiency in the use of English. The text contains three units: grammar, usage and reference. Writing instruction and assignments take students through the writing process as it applies to informative writing, personal narrative, descriptive writing, creative writing, persuasive writing and report writing.

Explorations in Literature for 8th grade helps students learn foundational concepts necessary to the study and appreciation of literature. Students sharpen their critical thinking skills as they observe the strengths of good writers and evaluate various techniques and themes of Christian and non-Christian writers.

Late Work

Assignments are due at the designated due date. 25% is deducted for first day late, 50% deducted for second day late and a 0 will be given after 2 days.

Upcoming Projects for the Semester

Quarter 1 Literature circle project (in class)

Quarter 2 A Night Divided book report

Quarter 3 The Outsiders book report

Quarter 4 Poetry project

Contact Information

Communication is the key to success. The best way to reach me is by email, and I will contact you within 24 hours. If your student will be absent or is leaving early, please contact the office and your student's homeroom teacher. If your child needs to contact me via email or Google Docs concerning an assignment, please have him/her include a parent in the correspondence (CC), and I will respond in a timely manner.

Additional books required

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

A Night Divided by Jennifer A. Nielsen

You were Made to Make a Difference by Jenna Lucado

Grading Policy

The breakdown of the nine-weeks grading policy is:

Test: 50%

Quizzes: 35%

Homework/Daily: 15%

Assessments include tests, quiz, projects, research papers,

Daily work includes but is not limited to individual activities and group activities.

Homework is anything completed outside of the instructional day and will be assigned at least 2-3 times per week.

Turnitin

All students need to sign up to turnitin and create an account. This is where students will be submitting writing assignments. I will post Turnitin login information on STI.

Behavior Expectations

I have high expectations for all students. I expect students to achieve academically to their fullest potential. I also expect students to contribute in a positive manner to the classroom. The following is a list of classroom rules. We will be following the REACH Classroom Rules.

Respect- Respect yourself, respect others, and respect your school. Keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself. Keep your cell phone put away in locker from 7:30 until 3:20. Self-Restraint

Effort - Pay attention, listen carefully, and always do your best. Actively listen and participate in all classroom activities. Be Prepared for class. Self-Restraint and Good Judgement

Attitude - Be positive, pleasant, helpful, and courteous. Keep negative comments to yourself. Good Judgement

Cooperation - Be willing to work with anyone. Use the correct voice level. Share and participate. Fairness

Honesty - Always to the truth Courage.

Discipline Interventions

If a student finds it difficult to follow the classroom rules, the following interventions will be used (not necessarily in this order):

Conference with student

Student Reflection Sheet

Parent contact (phone or email)

Office referral

After-school detention

Anticipated Absences

When an absence is anticipated, the parents are requested to inform the school office in writing at the earliest possible time prior to the absence. While it may not be possible to procure all assignments in advance, it will be to the student's advantage to keep up with material by reading in textbooks as the instructors have indicated. If a test or project that was assigned while the student was in school becomes due during the period of the anticipated absence, the student is encouraged to take the test or turn in the project before leaving school. If this is not possible, the test or project will be due on the earliest makeup session after the student has returned to class.

Tardies

Students are not allowed to enter the room after the bell has rung without a tardy pass. A student who is tardy will need to directly to the office. Students who are tardy are responsible to complete missed work. Repeated tardiness will result in more severe consequences. Refer to Student Handbook..

Academic Integrity

A student found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to grade penalties on assignments or tests and disciplinary penalties in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Cheating, plagiarism, and unauthorized communication between students during exams/quizzes is prohibited. Incidents judged to be dishonest by me or another professional will result in disciplinary action, parent contact, and a grade of zero.

Makeup Work

If you miss class, it is **YOUR** responsibility to get necessary make-up work. Complete all work, test and quizzes that you missed, ***within 1 day*** of your absence. Check the **MAKEUP FOLDERS** located near the back of the classroom door for any needed handouts.

If you missed a test, make an appointment with me for a make-up test the first day back from your absence. If you were absent more than 1 day, refer to the Student handbook for turning in the missed work and test reschedule. Any work not turned in within the acceptable time period will be recorded as a 'zero'.

Extra Help

There are a few options available if you believe you are falling behind and need extra help.

- 1. Come in for office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 3:30-4:00.*
- 2. Find a classmate to work with after school.*
- 3. There are numerous 'online' help sites including:
Grammar Blast- Education Place
Sheppard Software Free Online Games and Software*