

overview

Language Arts: This class covers three main focuses in education: grammar and syntax, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. We will be utilizing both our grammar texts and our chosen literary pieces to achieve the essential learning goals for the school year. Students will challenge themselves to learn 20 vocabulary words in a three to four-week unit. Students will explore author's purpose, character development, and literary devices through our novels and short stories. Students will improve their writing by learning key concepts in grammar, as well as apply those concepts to their reading assignments. The overall goal this year is to combine Literature with Grammar to melt the two subjects in to a cohesive and beneficial course. This course is best approached by placing trust in Mrs. Conto, and keeping up with the assignments given.

essential learnings

- ✓ I can support my analysis and understanding of a text by citing relevant details from that text.
- ✓ I can analyze similar themes across multiple texts by comparing and contrasting the development of those themes as well as the specific details surrounding them.
- ✓ I can analyze the author's choices regarding the development of characters, ideas or themes, the setting, as well as the structure of the text.
- ✓ I can analyze and evaluate how effective an argument is.
- ✓ I can determine the author's purpose in a text and analyze the effect it has on the text itself.
- ✓ I can analyze literary devices as well as word choice in order to better understand a text.
- ✓ I can determine the meaning of words using context clues and roots, prefixes, and suffixes.
- ✓ I can use English grammar and conventions appropriately and correctly.
- ✓ Apply the writing process through planning, drafting, revising, and editing.
- ✓ I can write an effective essay.

8th Grade!

language arts



MRS. CONTO

Room #110

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rules and expectations

- *Respect* is expected from all students in the classroom.
- Students must be *professional* and *responsible* at all times.
- Students must *strive* for success as well as *encourage* their peers to succeed.
- Always remember: this is a place of *learning*, not a place to discourage others. Mocking any classmate will not be tolerated. This is a “bully-free zone.”

Beginning of class → Take a seat, take out any homework assignments, complete the bell-ringer, and wait for further instruction.

During class → Be an active participant in your learning. Listen, collaborate, and ask questions.

End of class → Write down any homework assignments. Stay in your seat until dismissal by Mrs. Conto.

required supplies

Students must bring the following items to class each day.

- ✓ Voyages Textbook
- ✓ Voyages Workbook
- ✓ Vocabulary Workbook
- ✓ Novel
- ✓ Composition Book
- ✓ Writing Utensils
- ✓ Assignment Book



grades

The final grade is determined by points earned on homework, essays, quizzes and tests divided by points possible.

Example: Points earned/ Points possible= Percentage

- ✓ Homework and classwork assignments are worth an average of 10-20 points each.
- ✓ Quizzes and checkpoints are worth an average of 20-30 points each.
- ✓ Tests and essays are worth an average of 50-100 points each.

LATE WORK:

The Middle School Late/Missing Assignment Policy has been updated and is in effect for the 2020-2021 school year. Homework, projects, assessments, and other assignments will be marked down 10% for every CALENDAR day it is late. This includes ALL days the affected class does not meet (weekdays the class is not scheduled, weekends, and holidays). Assignments will not be able to receive a passing grade after three days, and no credit will be given after nine days.

Percentages may further decrease if the assignment is incomplete, contains incorrect answers, does not fulfill a rubric, ignores the instructions, etc.

MAKE-UP WORK:

Make-up work is accepted ONLY for excused absences. When absent, please check in with Mrs. Conto for make-up work. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO RESCHEDULE MISSED ASSESSMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS!**

materials

The following materials are provided by the school.

- *Voyages in English 8* textbook (\$50 replacement fee if lost or damaged)
- * *Voyages in English 8* Workbook (\$20 replacement fee if lost or damaged)
- *Sadlier Vocabulary Workshop Level C* (\$15 replacement fee if lost or damaged)
- *The Outsiders* by S.E Hinton (\$10 replacement fee if lost or damaged)

academic dishonesty

Academic dishonesty will NOT be tolerated under any circumstances. Cheating, copying, or plagiarism of any form will result in the following consequences:

- failure of the assignment
- disciplinary referral
- parent contact

JUST DON'T DO IT.