



Weddington Middle School
Welcome to 8th Grade ELA!
2022-2023 School Year

Course Description:

8th grade Language Arts is a balance of Reader's Workshop and whole class instruction. In our study of literature, students will read one self-selected independent novel, two whole class novels and also participate in book clubs. Additionally, students will study classical short stories, poetry, and non-fiction texts. Students will be assessed through summative tests and quizzes as well as written work and project based tasks for each unit. Students will be expected to annotate the texts we read throughout the school year.

Start of the Year:

In this first grading period, students will study the essential elements of plot and narrative text structures. To facilitate our learning of these important skills, we will begin the year with a short story unit that will focus on classical short story texts. In conjunction with our short story unit, students will self select an appropriately challenging novel and complete a project on this book. These novels will be read independently and should align with the student's independent reading level. I will guide your learner to choose appropriate texts. It is encouraged that your learner takes advantage of the books available through the Union County Public Library's online resources. Students can check out books from the Union County Public Library system by using an app called Libby. This app can be installed on any phone, iPad, or Kindle.

Major Units of Study: *Writing will be incorporated throughout every reading unit of study.*

- Short story unit: "The Ransom of Red Chief," "A Retrieved Reformation," "Lamb to the Slaughter," "The Elevator," "Click, Clack the Rattlebag," and "The Monkey's Paw."
- Novel Study: Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson (Historical fiction) paired with historical nonfiction articles. This novel corresponds with historical events and topics covered in 8th grade Social Studies.
- Nonfiction Text: Focus on both Informational texts and Persuasive texts, emphasis on the Methods of Rhetoric, Focus on Research Skills. Students will produce both information nonfiction and argument writing samples in this unit.
- Dystopian Literature: short stories ("The Lottery," "Examination Day," "Ponies") Hunger Games film study, Unwind by Neil Shusterman novel study, nonfiction articles on dystopian genre
- Poetry
- Book Club Unit: Students will be offered 8-12 choices for books clubs representing various genres of text.
- Poetry
- EOG Test Prep and Review of Skills

Course Evaluation:

All 8th grade Language Arts teachers use a total points system for grades. The amount of points an assignment is worth is based upon: the amount of class time which was spent covering the material, the amount of effort which was required of the student to complete the activity, and the length of time provided for the student to complete the task. Journals, quizzes, tests, reading responses, and projects will be the main forms of assessment. Wordly Wise will also be a major portion of the grade.

In general the points values are:

- Homework: 10-30 points
- Quizzes: 50-100 points
- Tests/ projects/ final draft essays: 100-200 points

** Point values often vary and are subject to change

Classroom Procedures and Expectations:

Rules are meant to create a positive learning environment and are vital to our success as a class and as respectful citizens. In addition, I expect all students to be active participants in class, ask questions when needing clarification, and always create work he/ she can be proud of.

- Be ready
- Be responsible
- Be respectful

Beginning of class: Students are to report immediately to class on time each class period and will have a warm-up to complete.

Homework: Although homework may be occasionally assigned, most students should be able to complete the work for this course in the time provided in class. If you are noticing your child has a large amount of homework for this class, you may wish to discuss with them how they are (or perhaps are not) utilizing their class time wisely and to the best of their ability.

We look forward to our partnership for the 2022-2023 school year.

Sincerely,

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