

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8

Wilbur S. Pence Middle School 2018-2019 COURSE SYLLABUS

Mrs.
Sullivan



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Course Description

Welcome to 8th Grade English! Our focus this school year will be developing our skills as critical thinkers, readers, and writers. The development and mastery of these important literary skills not only makes you a great reader and writer; it also prepares you for success outside of the classroom.

We will be writing poetry, narratives, and informational texts. We will also be reading thought-provoking novels you won't want to put down!

Discussion and collaboration will be a big part of this class, contributing to a set of skills you will need for high school and beyond.



Supplies

An important part of middle school is developing effective organizational strategies and habits.

The following tools are required to help keep you organized:

- Pencils
- Spiral or Composition Notebook
- 3-pronged Pocket Folder
- SSR Book

Units of Study



- SHORT STORIES
- *THE OUTSIDERS*
- NARRATIVE WRITING
- NONFICTION READING
- ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING
- HOLOCAUST
- POETRY



“BOOKS ARE A UNIQUELY PORTABLE MAGIC.”

– *Stephen King*

Late Work

Students will be permitted to turn in late work for half credit until the end of a unit. At the end of a unit, all late work will become a zero. All writing can be revised and turned in for a new grade before the end of the nine weeks.

Grading



Grading with Points:

Imagine grades as a bucket. I will give students many opportunities to fill their buckets with points. A letter grade will be calculated based on how many points a student has earned divided by how many points were offered. Tests and projects will be worth more points than quizzes, classwork, and homework.

Absent Work

Students are responsible for making up all work missed when absent from class. Students can find their missing work in their class binder in the classroom. They should find their work themselves and ask me if they have any questions.

Missing Work

It is a student's responsibility to keep track of their work. I will not send out reminders to students of work they are missing. However, all missing work will be labeled as such in PowerSchool. Students should know their login and check PowerSchool every day.

Class Expectations



BE PREPARED

- Come to class on time. This means being in your seat at the start time, focused and ready to learn.
- Come to class with the necessary supplies.



BE RESPECTFUL

- Respect yourself and others.
- Respect our class time and our materials.



BE YOURSELF

- Be responsible for your learning; work hard and do your best.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help.

Student/Parent Syllabus Agreement Form

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I am very excited to work with your student this year! Please read over the syllabus and let me know if you have any questions. Please also know that students will be reading many independent novels this year, and while I make sure to have age-appropriate novels in my own library, I do not censor the novels students bring to class. If you ever have a question about a book a student is reading, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please also ask your student for the survey they were given to bring home to you. I look forward to a great year!

Please contact me with any questions at asullivan01@rockingham.k12.va.us or at (540)-879-2535 (before 8:00 am and after 3:20 pm).

If you have read the syllabus and the letter above, please sign and detach this letter from the syllabus and send to school with your child. Both this and the survey will be a participation grade. These forms are also available for download on the homework page at <https://goo.gl/NmLFLn>.

Printed Student Name

Student Signature

Printed Parent Name

Parent Signature