

8TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS WITH MRS. KAPPERS 2016/2017

WHAT WE WILL BE LEARNING

This course is designed to educate students about language arts in the areas of reading, speaking and listening, writing, grammar, and technology use. Incorporating the multiple intelligences and student interests, units and lessons will be taught to students through collaboration and self-discovery. Students will be expected to become independent learners utilizing higher-level thinking skills to become true problem solvers. Throughout this course, students will learn about and discover interesting topics through projects, book clubs, presentations, and research.

CLASSROOM & SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

Class Expectations:

- Be prepared and on time! This means having your binder, a pen or pencil, logging in to your laptop when required, and having your reading book.
- Be respectful of yourself, your peers, your teacher, and your materials!
- Use your work time wisely.

School Rules:

- Be Respectful
- Be Safe
- Be Responsible
- Be Productive

Classroom Consequences

1st time: A verbal warning OR clear non-verbal warning will be given.

2nd time: A second verbal warning will be given, and a "minor" behavior form will be completed. Before leaving class you will complete a "fix it" form explaining what you've done and how you will change that behavior.

3rd time: A student placed phone call home and an office referral will be filled out.

*I reserve the right to skip steps depending on the severity/frequency of the problem.
*Three 'minor' forms will result in an office referral, even if the events occurred on different dates.

HOMEWORK

We will have bi-weekly spelling/vocabulary/sentence writing units. On Mondays, students will take part in a spelling "rule" activity and select their spelling & vocabulary words. Sentence structure and grammar will also be reviewed so that students can complete assignments properly. On the following Thursdays, students will begin class by taking a test on their words, and all spelling assignments will be due.

The amount of other homework students will have will depend on how wisely they choose to spend class time. Typically, class time will be given to complete assignments and projects for class. Students must be sure to TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT TIME!!!

Assignments and their due dates are listed on the front board underneath the day's agenda. This will be updated daily.

ATTENDANCE

If it is necessary for you to be absent from class, it is YOUR responsibility to find out what you have missed. Go to the "Were you Absent?" basket to collect assignments and materials from the day you were absent. If you have questions, ask a peer or see me at the end of class.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Remind:

This is a one way communication tool with your teacher. At times, I will send a Remind out about a due date, an upcoming quiz or if something is needed for class the next day. I ask that all students and parents sign up for this so that you are connected with our classroom. Messages will be sent out to all who are signed up to receive updates either via text messaging on a phone or through email.

Please follow the instructions below to add yourself to the class on Remind101.

Text "@mrskappers" to 81010 (for text reminders)

OR

Send an email to mrskappers@mail.remind.com (for email reminders)

Classroom Technology Use:

We are very lucky to have new laptops available in our classroom for student use. In order to use them, students will be expected to treat them with care, or their computer privileges will be taken away. A copy of our "Computer Rules and Procedures" contract is attached to this syllabus. Please read through it for more information.

Cell phones should be kept out of sight for the majority of class time. I do allow students to listen to their own music or use their phones to look up information during work time; however, the use of social media, texting, games, and other apps is not allowed. Any abuse of this policy will result in removal of the cell phone for the rest of the class period.

Food & Beverage Policy:

Students may bring a water bottle with a lid to class every day. Sodas, energy drinks, and other beverages in open containers are not allowed per school policy. A healthy snack may be eaten as long as it does not become a distraction and the student agrees to clean up any mess.

GRADING SCALE & LATE WORK POLICY

Grades can be viewed on Skyward at your convenience. If a "0" is displayed, that is an indication that you are missing an assignment. Make sure to check your grade often to avoid falling behind. I recommend signing up for email notifications and checking at least once a week.

Grading Scale

A 93-100	B- 80-82	D+ 67-69
A- 90-92	C+ 77-79	D 63-66
B+ 87-89	C 73-76	D- 60-62
B 83-86	C- 70-72	F 59-00

Late Work

An assignment is considered late if it is not completed or not in the classroom at the time it is collected.

If a student has a late assignment:

- A notation must be made on the late assignment clipboard.
- If the assignment is not completed by the following day, a "missing materials" form must be completed. Students will also need to make arrangements to stay after school or meet during Connect time with a language arts teacher to complete the work. After school hours will be posted on the board.

Soft Skills Rubric

When students move to the high school, they will receive a soft skills grade for each class in addition to their letter grade. To help build these important habits, they will frequently be evaluated on the following skills: collaboration, respect, initiative, and work habits.

YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE & FILM USE

***In order to challenge students' reading levels, student book selection may lead to reading young adult literature. At times, this may include adult language and/or situations. If you have a concern with this, please contact me.

***Connection to the district learning standards that require film to text studies may also involve viewing of young adult films that may include adult language and situations. If you have a concern with this, please contact me.