English 8 Pre-AP

Mrs. Schoch

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Tutorials and make-up work:

 I’m available every day.

Welcome everyone! I am so excited to be teaching 8th grade this year! I am thrilled to have so many of my kids from last year! We will have another fun year of learning!

Our textbook is *Holt McDougall Literature 8*. The textbook will not be issued. Any stories that we read will be a PDF in Google Classroom.

**Literature**, whether it be selections from a textbook, class novels, or supplemental readings, will be an integral part of our course. As writers, we’ll want to examine how other writers work and then discuss what is particularly effective about that work. Literature tests may or may not be given, but there will be quizzes and required writing in response to literature.

**Compositions**, both short and long, will be worked on in class and at home. Prewriting, drafting, and revision are all important parts of the writing process, and students are expected to keep all their work on a particular piece together in a digital folder or in the composition section of the English binder. A **Writer’s Notebook** will be kept by each student as a place for free writing and daily practice assignments.

**Structured vocabulary** will include a study of Greek and Latin roots along with prefixes and suffixes. Each unit will consist of four lessons followed by a cumulative unit test. All students in 7th English Pre-AP completed lessons 1-15. We will pick up with Lesson 16. When not doing structured vocabulary, students will study vocabulary in the context of literature.

**Grammar, capitalization, and punctuation** are taught through warm-ups, mini-lessons, and literature study. All grammar handouts are to be kept in the grammar section of the binder, as there will occasionally be grammar quizzes. Concepts are cumulative, so the grammar handouts should be kept all year long.

**Independent Reading** is an important part of a student’s literacy education. Students will be required to read a book of their choice for a minimum of 20 minutes a day. Ten of these 20 minutes will be completed in class, and the remaining 10 must be completed outside of English class. Each nine weeks, a student will set a personal reading goal to accomplish, documenting his or her progress. At the end of the nine weeks, the student will assess progress and set a new goal. Grades will be based on daily progress toward the reading goal and a final reflection. For some great ideas for books to read, see the links on my website and class blog for the Young Adult Library Association, Teen Reads.

**Organization** is important! Students are expected to keep all work in their English binders or digital folders until the end of each grading period.

**SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR CLASS**

* **CHARGED IPAD EVERY DAY!!!!!**
* 3 ring binder (1 ½ “ or 2” preferred)
* 5 subject dividers (**labeled in the following order: Miscellaneous, Grammar, Vocabulary, Literature, Writing Handouts, Composition Work**)
* marbled composition book for Writer’s Notebook
* highlighter, pencils, blue or black ink pens
* loose-leaf notebook paper
* sticky notes
* glue stick and scissors
* ear buds for iPad
* outside reading book to read for 10 minutes in class each day

***"Eanes ISD middle school teachers are committed to grading and assessing in the best interest of our students.  We believe grades and assessments communicate content knowledge, guide instruction, and reveal opportunities for enrichment and intervention."***

**Grading Policy**

Major 60%

Skills Development 40%

Practice 0%

**Homework**

I try very hard to give enough time in class to complete assignments. Students must use their time wisely! However, there will be times work must be completed at home: completing an essay draft, practicing vocabulary, reading a class or personal novel. Depending on the assignment, it can either be categorized as a skills development grade or a practice grade. Sometimes the work done at home contributes to a major grade (writing a final essay, studying for a test).

**Late Work**

Students are expected to develop a sense of responsibility by meeting assignment deadlines.  If an assignment is not finished on the due date, the student will notify parents through email and then make arrangements to get the assignment completed and turned in. Students must take care of this late work within one day of the due date.

**Re-testing**

Any student will have the opportunity to re-take a test for full credit after completing the required remediation work and scheduling tutorial time with me.  A student must notify me of the plan to retest within one day after receiving a graded test; he/she must then complete the re-testing process within an agreed amount of time.  The student willearn the higher of the two grades. The same material may not be re-tested more than once.

***Please email me if you are absent, and I will do my best to send the work to the office for pick up. Check with me before school on the day you return, and I will help you catch up on any missed assignments.***

 **CLASS EXPECTATIONS:**

Be Respectful Be Responsible Be Safe

 **CONSEQUENCES:**

**Students will email home if there is a problem with either completing assignments or behaving in class.**

**Important Dates (Due dates are approximations and subject to change):**

**Writer’s Notebook:**  **Reading Reflection**

Fri 10/5 Tues 10/9

Fri 12/7 Tues 12/11

Fri 2/22 Tues 2/26

Fri 5/17 Wed 5/21

**Early Release Days:**  **No Homework Nights:**

Tues 9/25 Tues 2/26 Fri 10/5 Tues 2/26 Tues 4/30

Tues 11/6 Tues 4/30 Wed 10/31 Tues 2/14 Fri 5/17

 Fri 11/16 Fri 3/15

**Pre-AP English 8 Scope and Sequence 2018-2019**

**First Nine Weeks: How to Entertain**

Literature:

* Short Stories, Fiction, and Drama (Hamilton)

Composition:

* PW for imaginative story or personal narrative

Vocabulary and Grammar Study

Writer’s Notebook: Friday, 10/5

Reading Reflection: Tues, 10/9

**Second Nine Weeks: How to Entertain**

Literature:

* Selected Poems
* ​The Outsiders

​Composition:

* Imaginative Story or Narrative; Do the Right Thing (Essay)

Vocabulary and Grammar Study

Writer’s Notebook: Friday, 12/7

Reading Reflection: Tuesday, 12/11

**Third Nine Weeks: How to Inform and Persuade**

Literature:

* Night; Informational Texts

​Composition:

* Persuasive Piece: poem, essay, or speech

Vocabulary and Grammar Study

Writer’s Notebook: Friday, 2/22

Reading Reflection: Tuesday, 2/26

**Fourth Nine Weeks: How to Discover**

Literature:

* Lit Circles/Book Clubs

Composition:

* Inquiry Writing Project (Student Choice)

Vocabulary and Grammar Study

Writer’s Notebook: Friday, 5/17

Reading Reflection: Tues 5/21