

Eighth Grade Language Arts Syllabus 2016 - 2017

Teacher: Ms. Marlene De Pau

Room: 103 **Phone:** 903-6600 Ext 3338

Conference Time: 4th period 11:25-12:15pm

Email: mdepau@tmisd.us

Language Arts Supplies:

- 3 ring binder, 1 to 1 ½ inch(kept in class)
- dividers for binder – 5 tab
- Notebook paper in binder (wide ruled)
- 1 pkg. Post-it or sticky notes
- 1 glue stick
- Highlighters (student keeps)
- Pencils/blue or black ink pen (no pink, purple, turquoise, etc.) (student keeps)
- red or green pen for grading (student keeps)
- facial tissue and/or paper towels are always appreciated

Course Description:

Research has concluded that there is a direct correlation between reading and writing. In other words, the more a person reads the better they write and vice-versa. Excellence in language arts strengthens all academic skills, leading students to success as well as college and career readiness.

Students in this course will practice a full range of reading and writing skills that challenge the student to demonstrate basic techniques of word identification, fact and detail, and summarization. In addition, a flexible range of metacognitive reading skills will be incorporated by students in order to become self-directed, critical readers. Students will furthermore perform higher-level thought processes of inference, generalization, and identification of the author's purpose.

At the same time students will integrate growing knowledge of writing skills in persuasive, classificatory, problem-solving, and analytical formats while adhering to standards of spelling, capitalization, punctuation, English usage, and sentence structure. Students are expected to develop and utilize an extensive and precise vocabulary.

To demonstrate mastery of these skills outlined in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) document, students will read materials and make connections between varieties of literary genre including, but not limited to whole texts or excerpts of: short stories, poetry, expository text, novels, advertisement, and plays.

Group work comprises one aspect of this course, and students are expected to demonstrate good work ethics while working cooperatively with his/her group. It is an important life skill to develop a collaborative team spirit and be a responsible contributor to the team. Group work may include both individual and team assessments.

Student Expectations:

Students are expected to do their own work. On a regular basis, teachers will provide students with feedback regarding performance on minor and major grade assignments and overall course average as determined by district grading policy. Students will be expected to use this information to keep their parents informed and make wise decisions to attend morning or afternoon tutorials offered by the teacher. Teachers will hold students accountable for keeping track of assignments, completing the assignments, and submitting the assignments on time. Students will adhere to the Student Code of Conduct.

Homework:

It is recommended that students read a minimum of 20 minutes each night. Reading is a skill, and the only way to improve a skill is to practice that skill. Just as athletes and musicians must practice to improve, so students must practice reading in order to improve their reading.

At the teacher's discretion, other homework may be assigned to provide practice for skills and concepts taught in class. When homework is given, it is expected to be quality work and returned on the date the student's teacher specifies. Homework may be graded and taken as a minor grade; late homework will be addressed as outlined in the middle school grading policy. (see TMISD Middle School Grading Policy)

Creative Reading Assignment (CRA):

In addition to weekly homework, students will be required to read a book of their choice each six weeks. The book must be a minimum of 100 pages unless approved by the teacher. Specific information about the project requirements will be provided in a separate packet. Please note that this assignment is mandatory and will consist of two (2) minor grades and one (1) major grade per six weeks.

Cheating, Plagiarism, or Academic Dishonesty:

Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary penalties as well as academic penalties. Scholastic dishonesty may also have an adverse effect upon honors or positions of distinction, such as National Junior Honor Society, Student Council membership, Cheerleading, etc. (See Code of conduct)

Grading Procedures:

During the six weeks, students are required to produce/earn a **minimum** of eight (8) Minor grades and three (3) Major grades. Minor grades are worth 35% percent of their average and the Major grades are worth 65% of their six week's average.

Late Work Policy: It is imperative that students turn-in their daily work on time, as specified by the teacher, to adequately measure progress and mastery with enough time to address deficiencies. If a student fails to turn in their work when it is due, at the student's request, the teacher may provide the student with an additional opportunity to complete the assignment in a timely manner. Failure to turn in the assignment, after being given an additional opportunity, will result in a zero for that assignment.

Please keep in mind that re-evaluation of your child's daily skills is ongoing and mastery may be reflected in subsequent assignments, not necessarily the same assignment.

Re-testing Policy: Retesting will be available to all students for all major tests or assignment that did not earn a passing grade (excluding Checkpoint tests). Students will have until the next major assessment to re-test. **Re-tests may be different from the original exam/assignment and may consist of short answer and/or essay questions.**

Grading will be according to the Tuloso Midway Middle School Grading Policy. See attached:

Classroom Privileges:

Students may get up and move around the room as needed unless it is direct instruction time. Students have a 5 minute passing period in which they are to take care of personal business. Students are not allowed to go to a locker during class time.

Binder:

Language arts student will need a 1 to 1 ½ inch 3 ring binder with 5 divider tabs to be kept in the classroom. This binder will be used for Language Arts ONLY.

Supplies:

Students need to bring the following supplies to class EACH DAY:

- ❖ Notebook paper
- ❖ Pencils
- ❖ Novel for independent reading
- ❖ Highlighters
- ❖ Red or green pen for grading

Choices for Success:

Students choose to:

- ❖ Come to class prepared to learn
- ❖ Begin work when the bell rings
- ❖ Utilize class time and stay on task to be productive
- ❖ Achieve the highest quality of individual work
- ❖ Respect self, peers, staff, and property
- ❖ Set and reach personal goals in language arts
- ❖ Cooperate in learning groups
- ❖ Use formal and appropriate language supporting class topic at all times
- ❖ Have supplies (pencil, paper, binder, and novel) at all times
- ❖ Understand personal learning strengths to maximize success

Discipline plan for Room 103

Expectations:

1. Be on time which means to be seated and be ready to work when the bell rings.
2. Be prepared which means having the proper supplies for daily class work.
3. Be respectful of others, including their property and their ideas. Treat others the way you want to be treated.
4. Follow the TMMS Student Code of conduct

Consequences: Discipline Step Sheet

1. Verbal Warning (Life Savers)
2. Student-Teacher Conference
3. Call Parent
4. Detention
5. Written referral and student is sent to the office.

Severe disruptions: Student will be sent immediately to the office.

******Please share with your parents and then place in front of your Language Arts binder.**

Grading Policy: attached

This information will also be posted on my webpage at the TM Middle School website

Please sign below and have your student bring this back to Ms. De Pau.

My parents and I have read the policies and agree to actively commit best effort to meet the requirements and assignments of 8th grade Language Arts.

Student Name (Printed) _____ Period _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed):

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____