



Welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts and Social Studies!  
 If you have any questions throughout the year, please contact me. I can provide the fastest response through email. Please include the student's first and last name, so that I may respond as accurately as possible.

Thank you in advance for your support and let's have a successful year *Leading the Way!*

Mr. Ryan  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

English Language Arts 8 provides students with opportunities and resources to develop the skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students read a variety of literature and informational texts as well as routinely write to examine a topic, convey ideas, and support claims. Focus is placed on developing analytical skills, where students cite textual evidence and provide elaboration to support that evidence. Speaking and listening skills, vocabulary development, and grammar instruction are integrated throughout reading and writing experiences.

Students will be responsible for extended responsibilities and expectations, both inside and outside of class. It is vital for students to have strong work habits and be ready and willing to put forth the effort necessary to be successful.

**SUGGESTED MATERIALS**

- 1.5 inch or larger three-ring binder
- Lined college-ruled filler paper
- Subject divider tabs for binder
- Pencils- I recommend mechanical pencils
- Mini pencil sharpener or plenty of extra lead
- Highlighters
- Pair of scissors
- Glue stick or mini stapler
- Colored pencils
- Ear buds or headphones

***Donations of facial tissue and filler paper are greatly appreciated!***

**GRADES**

Students will be assessed on how well they demonstrate each standard. For assignments I will be using a blend of the traditional grading scale along with a four-point standards-based scale below to assess students' mastery. Students may monitor their scores in Canvas and Aeries.

<i>Standards Assessment Scale</i>		
4	Masters Standards	Students can independently extend learning with complex thinking and elaboration.
3	Meets Standards	Students can independently demonstrate an understanding of subject matter concepts/skills.
2	Approaches Standards	Students demonstrate a foundational understanding of subject matter concepts/skills and require some support.

1	Attempts Standards	Students are beginning to understand subject matter concepts/skills and require significant support.
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**TECH INFORMATION**

All students are assigned a Microsoft 365 account. All writing assignments, PowerPoints, etc. should be saved here so that they are easily accessible from both school and home.

All information will be posted and updated weekly on Canvas. This includes copies of all class assignments, handouts, and PowerPoint presentations.

**ABSENCES**

It is the *student's* responsibility to obtain and complete work missed due to any absence, for any reason. If something is due and you are absent, it must be submitted the day you return, or it will be considered late.

**LATE WORK**

Late work will be accepted without penalty to the grade during the 6-week grading period in which it is due. After the grading period ends, it will no longer be accepted and will be scored a as a zero.

**DO OVERS**

Students may rewrite/retake any assessment through the semester. Students must demonstrate that 100% of the unit work has been completed and explain a clear study plan when making an appointment for a retake. Semester deadlines for will be one week before the end of each of the 3 grading periods within both semesters.

**BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS**

I have two major expectations in my classroom: **Be Respectful** and **Be Responsible**. I expect all school rules to be followed. Disciplinary action will occur if a student is disruptive or acting with disrespect to the teacher or to other students. (Refer to student handbook)

Students will be given a grade for meeting expectations regarding respect and responsibility.

<u>WORK HABITS</u>	<i>Outstanding</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Needs Improvement</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
✓ Is prepared for class ✓ Uses class time effectively ✓ Submits assignments on time ✓ Participates in learning activities  <u>CITIZENSHIP</u> ✓ Is respectful to others ✓ Arrives on time for class ✓ Exhibits a positive attitude ✓ Uses appropriate language	Consistently meets expectations; Serves as a model for peers "Leading the Way"	Usually meets expectations	Sometimes meets expectations; inconsistent	Seldom meets expectations

**NON-CLASS MATERIALS**

- Students may have water in class, but no other food or drink is permitted.
- All non-class materials must be kept in the student's backpack.
- It is the student's responsibility to keep track of any devices brought to school. Students taking cell phones out in class will have their device sent to the office.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Any student who plagiarizes, lies, cheats, or otherwise misuses the academic environment will be referred to school administration and receive no credit for the assignment. Violations include, but are not limited to:

- Knowingly allowing another student to copy from your paper
- Copying from another student's paper or any other prohibited material
- Copying directly from the text, other printed material, or an internet source without citation

Mr. Ryan ELA/SS Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

## Movie Release

***Parents, please initial on the appropriate blanks and sign at the bottom.***

The following films may be shown to enhance literature and concepts discussed in class. All are not rated unless otherwise specified. If you would like additional information about these movies, please refer to the movie's Parent Guide at <http://www.imdb.com/>

If you have concerns regarding any of the following videos let me know and I will make alternate arrangements for your child.

- Flowers for Algernon
- The Outsiders
- History Channel videos: America Story of Us, The Revolution, Civil War Journal, The Hunt for John Wilkes Booth
- America Before Columbus
- Race to Freedom: The Underground Railroad
- The Trail of Tears: Cherokee Legacy
- National Treasure
- National Treasure: Book of Secrets
- Night at the Museum

