English 8

Course Overview: English 8 is designed to help students grow their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills by investigating big questions and practicing clear communication.

Units and Activities: Where is the line between truth and fiction? What is the value of stories that are not true? These questions represent a few of the big ideas students in English 8 grapple with. We begin by studying narrative techniques in memoir, investigating how we can tell a true story about ourselves. From there, we expand our investigation to novels, poetry, and nonfiction from a variety of perspectives; practicing critical reading, writing, and discussion skills.

Standards: What knowledge and skills will I gain by the end of this course? This course builds student knowledge using the Common Core. A complete list of ELA Common Core standards for 8th grade can be found here.

Anchor Standards:
- Writing: Students will practice narrative, informative, and argumentative writing.
- Reading: Students will read a wide range of fiction and nonfiction. Some texts will be shared, but students will also learn strategies for choosing their own books.
- Speaking and Listening: We will engage in regular class discussions to deepen our understanding, rehearse ideas for writing, and share ideas.
- Language: Students will study vocabulary as well as grammar, usage and mechanics.

Assessment of Learning:
For information about assessment types, scoring, and overall grade calculation: click here.

Classroom Expectations:
We respect
- Our Time
  - We arrive on time and prepared with Chromebooks, a notebook, and a writing utensil
  - We leave distractions, such as phones and toys, packed away or at home.
- Our Space
  - We clean up after ourselves and push our chairs in
  - We move around the room safely
- Our Community
  - We treat each other kindly, online and in person
  - We ask sincere questions and listen to each other
  - We give personal space
The remainder of this syllabus outlines school-wide grading and assessment practices and is not unique to English 8.

Communication:

How Do I Access Work from Home, and What Should I Expect?
- All work will be posted in Google Classroom.
- The work will be explained during our in-person meetings and/or posted to Google Classroom.
- The work will also be explained in our Class Planner posted to Google Classroom.
- If you have any questions, email your teacher.

How Do I Know What My Grades Are?
- On Summative Assessments, teachers will provide both a 4-point grade and a letter grade.
- You can monitor your progress in the following ways:
  - By reading feedback and scoring returned to students on summative assessments.
  - By monitoring the scores and Overall Course Mastery Grade in the Parent/Student portal on JumpRope. Reminders to check grades will be sent from the school.
  - Communicating with your teacher if you are unclear.

Where Can I Find This Syllabus during the School Year?
- This syllabus will be available on the school website in each subject’s department tab once the school year is up and running. It will also be available in our Google Classroom.

How Do I See What’s Due?
- Assignment and summative assessment due dates with handouts are posted in Google Classroom, with connection to Google Calendar, for student access.

How Do I See What’s Past Due?
- If a student is missing a grade on an assessment, it will be listed in the red “Missing Assessment” section of the JumpRope Parent/Student Portal along with any attachments. Please contact your teacher if you have any questions.

Schoolwide Procedures:
Please see the Student Handbook for Procedures and Policies related to: Due dates and deadlines, extra credit, retaking assessments, and turnaround time for grade entry.