

LANGUAGE ARTS

“Literature is no one’s private ground, literature is common ground; let us trespass freely and fearlessly and find our own way for ourselves.” - Virginia Woolf

Class Rules

1. Follow directions quickly.



2. Raise your hand for permission to speak.



3. Raise your hand for permission to leave your seat.



4. Make smart choices.



5. Keep your dear teacher HAPPY.



Class Expectations

1. Be in seat when tardy bell rings.
2. Put proper heading on all papers.
3. Do not use electronic devices in class without teacher permission.
4. Use restroom during passing breaks.
5. Maintain a clean and orderly work area.
6. Bring all of your supplies to class daily.
7. Complete all of your work and turn it in on time.
8. All CCMS rules and policies shall be observed within the classroom.

Course Description

Welcome to 8th Language Arts! Our focus this school year will be learning and developing our skills as critical thinkers, readers, writers, speakers, and listeners. The development and mastery of these important literary skills not only is important to achieving success in the Language Arts classroom, it is a critical component of achieving success in other school subjects, building strong relationships with others, and attaining a flourishing career as an adult. Basically, the quality of life you experience now through adulthood will depend a lot on how well you read, write, and communicate with others.



What do I get if I follow class rules?

Your appropriate behavior in class assures everyone of an environment conducive to learning. Some possible rewards for continuous appropriate behavior are: intrinsic value (satisfaction of learning), improved skills, verbal praise, positive note to parents, tangible trinkets, and special class activities / privileges.

What are the consequences if I don't follow class rules?

1. Warning: the teacher provides a verbal reprimand/reminder to student.
2. Please refer to the student handbook regarding further disciplinary actions.

What happens if I turn in an assignment late?

Work not completed and turned in **by the assigned date** is considered late. If a student is absent on the date work is due, the assignment is due the first day the student returns to school. Students are given two school days per day missed to complete any assignment assigned while they were absent. **COMPLETED LATE WORK** will only receive partial credit (80% of the assignment total). **INCOMPLETE LATE WORK** will not be graded and will result in a zero for the assignment.

Grade Scale

A	= 100-93%
B	= 85% - 92%
C	= 75% - 84%
D	= 70% - 74%
F	= 0% - 69%

Grade Breakdown

Weekly Quizzes =	25%
Teacher Option =	25%
PA's (Primary Assessments)	= 50%



Novels

Inside Out & Back Again by Thanhha Lai
ISBN: 978-0-06-196279-0

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
ISBN: 978-0-446-31078-9

Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption by Laura Hillenbrand ISBN: 978-0-8129-7449-2

The Omnivore's Dilemma Young Reader's Edition, by: Michael Pollan ISBN:978-1-101-99383-5

How will I check my grade in class?

Class progress reports will be sent home every 4.5 weeks. Report cards are sent home at the end of each 9 week grading period. Parents and students are also strongly encouraged to check the **Parent Portal** on a weekly basis to view the most current grades for EVERY class.

What do I do if I am absent?

Students or parents may email their teacher at any time to ask for or questions about an assignment. A student has two extra days to turn in any work **assigned** on a day a student was absent.

Do I have to read outside of class?

All students will be expected to read independently on a daily basis. Students are required to read and take quizzes on any Accelerated Reading book of their choice to earn points. Each student is assigned a different number of points based on their STAR test results and the teacher's requirement of reading at least 15 minutes per day.

What types of writing will I do this year?

Students will be learning about each of the four main styles of writing: persuasive, expository, narrative, and descriptive. By the end of the year, they will be expected to know the differences in structure and language use for each style of writing. Students will also be able to write a response to any prompt given to them by their teacher or on a state test.

What are the required readings this year?

"Inside Out & Back Again" by Lai, "To Kill A Mockingbird" by Lee,, "Unbroken" by Hillenbrand, "Omnivore's Dilemma" by Pollan, Other readings will include various poems, songs, informational articles, and historical documents.

All students will be required to read, analyze, and write or discuss various aspects of each text.

Supplies

For all classrooms DAILY

- Paper
- Pencils
- Scissors
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Highlighters (at least 3 colors)
- Ear buds (for Exploratory classes)

Homeroom-supplies for classroom

- 1 pack of 10 pencils
- 1 pack of college ruled notebook paper
- 1 pack of cardstock (variety of colors)
- 2 boxes of tissues
- 2 containers of Clorox wipes

English Class

- 1 1- inch, 3-ring binder to be used for English only
- Dividers
- 2 packs index cards (3x5)
- Books listed in left hand column

PLEASE READ THE COURSE INFORMATION, SIGN, AND RETURN ONLY THIS SHEET TO MS. CRAIG.

Students:

Please sign below to signify that you have read the course sheet for Ms. Craig's class, will keep it in your folder, and will be responsible for the information throughout the year, and **will check Parent Portal at least twice per week at school or at home.**

Student printed name

Student signature

Parents/Guardians:

Check all the statements that apply to how you would like to communicate with Ms. Craig about your student's progress. I will, of course, call for major concerns or accomplishments, but with approximately 85 students, I like to know how you'd prefer to communicate.

_____ I/We have internet access at home, so we will check Parent Portal at least once per week to check on my/our student's progress. I/We will contact Ms. Craig about any concerns we have.

_____ I/We plan to email Ms. Craig weekly or monthly for an update.

_____ I/We do not have internet access at home, but I/we would like to have regular contact with Ms. Craig. I/we will call for an update on a regular basis.

_____ Other:

Please sign below to indicate that you have read the course sheet for Ms. Craig's class and that you will help your student be accountable for the information. If you have questions about the course or your student's work, please do not hesitate to contact me; **email is the best way to reach me quickly.** See the front of this sheet for my email address.

Parent/Guardian printed name

Parent/Guardian signature

Parent/Guardian **e-mail**
(please print)

Parent/Guardian **daytime** phone number

Parents and guardians, please CIRCLE the best way for me to contact you:
e-mail **phone**