

8th Grade English Language Arts (ELA) Syllabus

Course: 8th Grade English Language Arts
Email Address: eford@harnett.k12.nc.us



Teacher: Ms. Ersertavia Ford
Grade Level: 8th

Course Description

This course emphasizes critical reading of various literary selections and analysis through discussion, compositions, projects, and speeches. Students will examine the links between culture, history, and literature.

Areas of Study

Literature: Folklore, Short Story, Novel, Poetry, Non-Fiction

Writing: Narratives, Descriptive & Persuasive Essays, Literary Summary & Analysis Paragraphs & Essay

Grammar: 8 Parts of Speech, Punctuation

Speaking: Oral Reading and Presentations, Debates, Skits/Acting

Course Outcomes

In accordance with each individual's capabilities and district, state, and national language arts standards, the student will:

1. Identify the eight parts of speech and recognize the correct usage of each grammatical form.
2. Explain in detail the elements of a literary piece and examine literary pieces to determine the author's purpose and style.
3. Write narratives, expository, persuasive, and literary analysis essays.
4. Develop proofreading techniques dealing with grammar, punctuation, and content.
5. Define and utilize the elements of poetry, short story, novel, and nonfiction in critical analysis through writing.
6. Draw evidence from different types of texts.
7. Use specific skills to determine the meanings of words and phrases and Expand vocabulary strategies and usage.
8. Use a variety of reading strategies to summarize and evaluate a text.
9. Read and comprehend various types of genres near or at grade level.
10. Deliver oral presentations.

Grading System Categories

Vocabulary - Vocabulary lists and tests are given bi-weekly/monthly.

Literature - Reading assignments vary by unit.

Composition - Journals (Interactive Notebook and Google Classroom), writing practice, and formal essays

Grammar - 8 parts of speech, punctuation, sentence practice, etc.

Miscellaneous - Projects, speeches, performances, etc.

Warm-Ups - Daily skills practice at the beginning of class

(Things are subject to change and can follow under any category of Learning Activities, Independent Practice, and/or Unit Assessment)

Grading Scale

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59 and below	F

Written Work Standards & Required Materials

1. Organized 3-ring binder
2. One 70-page journal (college ruled). This journal will be used for all journal assignments.
3. Pencil and/or Black or blue ink pen is required for **all work** (except when typed is specified).
4. Use neat, legible handwriting, complete sentences, and proper mechanics for all assignments.
5. Use a correct heading on all assignments with first and last name, Date, and Core (Period). The heading appears in the upper left-hand corner beginning on the top line. Points are deducted when not followed.

Example:

Name	Terrance Ford
Date	9/1/22
Core	Core 2

6. If in doubt, **ASK** for support. It's better than redoing it later!

Assignment Policies

Late Work: Late work will be accepted, however, 10 points will be deducted each week it's late. The highest grade a student may earn on proficient late work is 89% (this is before the week 2 deduction comes into play).

1. **Essays and projects are due on the assigned date. If a student is ill and cannot get the assignment turned in, a parent/guardian must call or email Ms. Ford for the assignment to be counted on time. If an assignment is turned in late without a parent's call or email to Mrs. Ford, the assignment will receive a lower grade for being late.**
2. **Regular homework assignments will be accepted late due to absence (one day late for each day missed).** Students are responsible for missed assignments Online (the majority of assignments are online); a comment needs to be left as a reminder of your absence.
3. If assignments are missing, a zero placeholder will be placed.

Classroom Standards & Procedures

1. Be on time for class.
2. Come ready and prepared to learn by bringing proper materials (pen, paper, journal, binder, Chromebook, etc).
3. Respect your rights and the rights of others to learn: raising your hand to speak and following classroom procedures, etc.
4. Work at learning by accepting challenges, allowing yourself to make mistakes, and completing assignments.
5. Ask for support.

IN ORDER TO SUPPORT CLASSROOM STANDARDS,

1. All students will be on a three-strike rule for ELA class for all minor violations (such as class disruption, not following directions, etc.). Students will be given a strike for each infraction. Once 2 is received, parents will be notified and at 3, the student will be referred to the office. Strikes reset every 2 weeks.
2. Major offenses will be handled immediately.

TO SHOW ABSOLUTE RESPECT TO PEERS AND ADULTS, STUDENTS WILL:

1. Speak kindly to others and listen when others are talking.
2. Follow the directions for the Warm Up assignment. The daily warm-up activity counts toward their overall grade.
3. Turn in all warm-ups, classwork, and homework to the proper bins/teacher directions.
4. Ask for permission to leave the classroom at appropriate times, take a pass, and return promptly (5 minutes or less).



Overhills Middle School
8th Grade Language Arts Syllabus
MS. FORD



Student and Parent/Guardian Agreement

PLEASE READ, SIGN, AND RETURN TO MRS. FORD BY September 29, 2021.

We have read and understood the 8th Grade Language Arts course syllabus including the classroom standards, classroom procedures, and assignment policies. We also understand that failure to complete course assignments or abide by the assignment policies can result in loss of points toward the final grade or loss of credit for the class. Signing this form is a grade for the student.

 Student Name (please print)

 Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

 Student Signature

 Parent/Guardian Signature

Note to Parent/Guardian:

Email is the quickest and easiest way for me to communicate with you about your child's achievement in my class. However, you may also call or meet with me as well. My contact information is located on the front page of the course syllabus.

Please note the best time and method that you can be contacted.

Best time to contact you: From _____ to _____ at the phone number(s) listed below.
Please identify the name of the person I will be contacting at each number.

Email: Parent/Guardian: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Student: _____

*(Please **PRINT** neatly and identify who belongs to each email)*

Is there anything else Mrs. Ford should know? [Parent notes to teacher (please print)]