

After carefully reading the course expectations, please print, sign, and return the last page.

Accelerated English 8 Course Expectations

Ms. Laura Wooten (Rm. 816)

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Teacher's Website: my.ccsd.net

COURSE SCOPE:

This course involves an intensive study of grammar, spelling, punctuation, and writing conventions as related to the study of English and literature. Coupling those particular concepts with critical thinking skills, students explore the writing process through a vast array of expository writing samples. Additionally, communication skills through the use of effective listening and speaking skills are integrated into the curriculum.

COURSE GOALS:

1. To further develop critical thinking.
2. To further enhance the fundamentals of writing as a process.
3. To write for a variety of purposes and audiences.
4. To analyze models of quality writing.
5. To write and speak using standard English grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.
6. To employ the common terminology needed for the purpose of discussing correct usage, mechanics, and forms of writing.
7. To use stylistic devices effectively in order to improve writing and begin to develop a personal style.
8. To expand vocabulary and increase spelling proficiency.
9. To read and interpret a variety of literature including fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry.
10. To apply literary terminology in the analysis of literature.
11. To develop effective speaking and listening skills.
12. To apply library, research and study skills.
13. To respond respectfully to the ideas of others.
14. To develop an understanding of good character and ethics by responding to a wide variety of written and oral communication.
15. To develop an awareness and appreciation of other cultures.

PRE-ASSESSMENTS:

Each student will take a pre-assessment test during the first week of class to determine areas requiring improvement and strengths in alignment with the Clark County School District English 8 Course Syllabus.

POST-ASSESSMENTS:

Each student will take the English 8 syllabus-based post-assessment test to determine individual growth in regards to course content, performance objectives, and strengths and weaknesses of the teaching/learning process.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Students are expected to complete both in-class assignments and homework. In-class assignments include, but are not limited to:

- . Bell Work

- . Group work
- . Study guides
- . Reading
- . Worksheets

Homework: The standing homework assignment is 100 pages of reading a week.

Students are expected to read a non-school book and must write two pages in their reading journals every week. This is a year long assignment and will not be accepted late. More information about the writing journal will be given during the first weeks of school.

Major projects: Students who are absent on the day a major project is due are expected to turn the project in on the FIRST day they return unless other arrangements have been approved prior to their return.

Late Work: Late homework is marked down 25% for the first day that it is late, 50% for the second that it is late, and 100% for the third day that it is late. If a student has more than five late assignments in one quarter, the parent/guardian will be notified. Any assignments that are started in class will be considered classwork and will not be accepted late.

*******Extra credit** assignments **DO NOT** generally exist in Ms. Wooten's room this year. To foster "real world" responsibility, students are expected to complete all assignments by the announced due date. *****

ABSENCES:

Absences are very disruptive to the learning environment for the student as well as the teacher. An enormous amount of material is covered by direct teacher instruction, student discussion, and student interaction. When a student is habitually absent, his/her ability to benefit from classroom instruction is severely compromised. Students have three days to initiate contact with a teacher after they return to school due to an absence. Upon initiating contact, the teacher and student will develop a reasonable timeline for missed work to be completed and submitted. **Students will have one week from the original day a test was administered to make up the missed test.** Any student absent for three or more days will be given a minimum of one week to submit missed assignments.

INCENTIVES:

Students are paid in Bobcat Bucks for weekly quizzes and tests and for sharing/locating information and ideas that are pertinent to the topics we are studying at any particular time. If a student "saves" one hundred dollars, he/she is entitled to buy one grade (it can not be a writing assignment or a test) and change it to a grade of 100%. Additionally, an auction will be held at the end of each quarter whereby each student may bid on items of interest (food, drinks, "Paw Prints," etc).

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Any student involved with sharing and/or copying his or her assignments will receive a grade of "0" on the assignment(s) and an "N" in citizenship for the first offense. A second offense will result in a grade of "0" on the assignment, a "U" in citizenship and a referral to the dean.

ACADEMIC EVALUATION:

Weekly Quizzes 35% of overall grade

Classwork/Homework 20% of overall grade

Writing Assignments, Tests, Journals, and Projects 40% of overall grade

Class Participation 5% of overall grade

*****Writing assignments will NOT be accepted late*****

GRADING SCALE:

90-100 A

80-89 B

70-79 C

60-69 D

Below 60 F

SEMESTER GRADES:

1st Quarter Grade 45% 3rd Quarter Grade 45%

2nd Quarter Grade 45% 4th Quarter Grade 45%

Mid-term Exam 10% Final Exam 10%

CITIZENSHIP EVALUATION:

Citizenship grades are based on daily classroom behavior and adherence to classroom and school rules. Students are "graded" as follows:

All students begin with 100 points.

Five points are deducted per incident/citation.

Name on board equals five points and each subsequent check mark placed next to the name equals five points.

Deductions/Citations (5 points per incident)

Student possesses gum, candy, water, etc. in class

Student is not working on English assignments... (Permission may be granted to student for other class work).

Student interrupts the teacher and/or fellow students

Student leaves seat without permission

Student talks without raising hand

Student consciously disregards classroom etiquette

Student interferes with other students' learning

CITIZENSHIP ONLY GRADING SCALE:

90-100 = Outstanding (O)

80-85 = Satisfactory (S)

70-75 = Needs Improvement (N)

Below 70 = Unsatisfactory (U)

In addition to the above citizenship grading scale, the following steps may occur:

Parent contact once the behavior falls below the satisfactory level

Teacher detention if an infraction so warrants

Counselor's Referral if in the best interest of the child or in the case of repeated problems

Dean's Referral

PLEASE NOTE: Discipline procedures are a guideline. The order of discipline can be altered at the teacher's discretion if warranted.

TARDY POLICY:

All students are expected to be in class on time. A student is considered tardy when both feet are not in the classroom and sitting in their seat when the bell begins to ring. Tardy students will be reported to the deans and will receive consequences in accordance with the school-wide tardy policy. Each tardy will also result in the loss of daily participation points.

BATHROOM POLICY:

Students are urged to use the restroom during passing periods; however, students are allowed to use the restroom on an as-needed basis. Once the students have had an opportunity to

accumulate Bobcat Bucks, they are then required to pay \$5 to use the restroom. All students are reminded regularly that if an emergency situation arises (i.e. bloody nose, nausea, etc.), they may leave the room immediately. Abuse or habitual restroom breaks during my class will be discussed with the student and the parent/guardian if need be. If a student has a medical condition, please notify the office.

SUPPLIES: (Must be brought to class daily--notebook/material checks do occur).

Notebooks will be organized in class the second week of school.

TEACHER AVAILABILITY:

I am available for parent and student conferences before and after school. Parent appointments must be scheduled through the counseling office. In addition, I may be reached via voice mail through the school phone number 799-2260 or at my email address lmwooten@interact.ccsd.net.

1. BMMS Agenda
2. Copious amounts of white lined notebook paper
3. Pens (blue or black), pencils
4. Red grading pens...NO GEL PENS
5. Heavy-duty zippered pencil bag (secured by rings in your binder)
6. Notebook dividers (5)
7. 2 Journals (Composition Notebooks...the cover is marbled...NO SPIRALS)
8. Multi-colored highlighters (NO MARKERS)
9. Outside reading novel (will be discussed the first week of school).

PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Please complete and return the form below which verifies that you have received and read the Course Expectations.

STUDENT INFORMATION:

Name (last, first): _____ Student # _____ Period _____

Parent/Guardians with whom you live:

Address:

Home Phone _____ Best time to contact _____

Father/Guardian _____ Work phone _____

Cell phone _____

Mother/Guardian _____ Work phone _____

Cell phone _____

Please indicate the best time and method to contact you. I will gladly respond to e-mails as well as phone calls.

E-mail (if desired) _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____