English 8
Course Expectations and Overview

Ms. Bauknecht, Mr. Gallagher, Ms. Song, Mrs. Clarke, and Ms. Stevens

Welcome to a fun and exciting year in eighth grade English! The English 8 curriculum this year is divided into two semester courses—8A Writing and Language and 8B Literature and Language.

This year we will be implementing a Reader's-Writer's Workshop format where student choice will be a key component that drives instruction. Students will be choosing the books they read with various activities to further develop their reading, thinking, discourse, and writing skills. Students will also have their choice of topics and order in which to complete the Common Tasks within each quarter.

8A Writing and Language

Writing and Language 8A puts writing at the center of teaching and learning. This course prepares students to communicate in a world that is changing so rapidly we may not even be able to imagine future means of communication. The course focuses on developing the skills students need to communicate effectively for a variety of purposes, audiences, and media. The writing class is a workshop: students write every day, keep a portfolio to track progress and set goals, and explore ways to convey their own voice. They read as writers, analyzing short texts, practicing the writers' techniques, and imitating the style and sentence structures of published authors. They study literature and language as an integral part of the writing and revision process. Students write to explore their own thinking, engage in reflection, and learn each day that they have control over improving their craft. Students will carry at least three tasks each quarter through the whole writing process that address three different types of writing: argument, informative/explanatory, and narrative.

8B Literature and Language

Unit 1: Literature and Craft	Provides the transition between Writing and Language 8A and Literature and Language 8B. Just as students make choices in their own writing, they now consider more carefully the choices the authors make in the works they read. Students read short stories and narrative fiction to explore how authors shape their texts in deliberate ways to give life to their stories.
Unit 2: Literature in Context	While any great work must stand on its own as a well-crafted story, students explore how authors' works are shaped by the world in which they live and write as well as how the works that they write influence society. Students examine how the historical events in a text affected real people who lived during the time the book was set or written.
Unit 3: Literature as Art	Students consider what qualities make an author's work rise above writing that is intended primarily for entertainment to a level that is acknowledged as art: creativity, wisdom, and power that transcends time and place. These works move readers, both intellectually and emotionally and creates a place of permanence in the literary canon.

Recommended supplies/materials:

- Three-ring binder
- Loose leaf notebook paper (lots!)
- **Single-subject spiral notebook or composition book (Recommended 100 pages minimum)**
- Pens – blue or black and red/colored

Student Support

- Additional assistance is available as posted in the classroom and by teacher appointment.

Behavior Expectations

- You are expected to be an active and respectful participant in the learning environment based on behavior expectations stated in the student handbook and 8th grade team management plan.

Absences

- You are required to complete all work missed due to absences. Refer to the Student Handbook concerning "What to do when you miss class". You should call a study buddy and check Edline to find out what was assigned. Then talk to your teacher upon your return to class to make arrangements for making up work.

Parent Communication

- The best way to contact your English teacher is by e-mail.
  Ms. Bauknecht   linda_l_bauknecht@mcpsmd.org
  Mr. Gallagher   kevin_p_gallagher@mcpsmd.org
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