

8A English Course Information



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8A Cluster Blog: <https://www.houstonisd.org/domain/48229>

Remind.com Links: 3rd Period: <https://www.remind.com/join/8APOMSP3> 5th Period: <https://www.remind.com/join/8APOMSP5>

2nd Period: <https://www.remind.com/join/8APOMSP2> 4th Period: <https://www.remind.com/join/8APOMSP4>

8th Period: <https://www.remind.com/join/8APOMSP8>

Course Objectives

The English Language Arts curriculum for 8th grade incorporates literature, composition, academic discourse, and grammar.

Semester 1

Personal Narrative, Memoir, and Short Stories

Expository and Persuasive Texts & Holocaust Studies

Poetry and Narrative Stories

Semester 2

Drama - *Twelve Angry Men*

Mixed Genre Study

Novel Study and Research

**Specific information will be provided online each grading cycle. If for any reason we find that we need to move or change units, we will provide this information in a timely manner.*

Tutorials

English tutorials will be held from 4:00 – 4:30 on Tuesdays or by appointment. During this time students may seek additional help on any schoolwork or projects. This time is also set aside for test make-ups. Test make-ups will not be given during class time. Unless other arrangements are made, I expect students to arrive between 4:00 and 4:05.

Materials

Bring the following supplies to English class every day (these are “The Usual”):

- Planner
- Bound composition notebook
- Pens- black or blue for graded work; red, green, or purple for grading and editing
- Notebook paper
- Independent reading book (eBooks are acceptable)
- Pencil (must be used for Scan-tron tests)

** Additional supplies may be requested throughout the year and students will be given time to acquire them.*

Required Reading

Students will be required to read literature in class as well as independently. Students will be given specific genres from which to choose independent reading. They will be given ample notice of the upcoming genre or class novel in order to acquire a book. Students will complete a variety of independent reading assignments throughout the year.

Grading

Grades for 8th Grade English will be determined based on a TOTAL POINTS system. Assignments are given a point value based on the difficulty or expended effort. Longer or more challenging assignments will be worth more points. The average is based on: **Total Points Earned ÷ Total Points Possible**

Grades will break down to approximately:

Major Grades - 40%: Tests, Projects, Essays

Daily Grades - 60%: Quizzes, Class Assignments, Homework*, Quick Writes

*Homework assignments will not total more than 10% of the students overall average. Please keep in mind that there will be activities such as independent reading that need to be completed outside of class in order to be prepared for class activities.

**Please note that grades will appear in PSConnect as the point values students have earned. For example you may see a 13 in the grade book which may indicate that the student has earned 13 of 15 points, not 13%. Please look at the total points available for the assignment.*

Late Work

There will be a 20% penalty on late assignments. Assignments turned in three or more weeks after the due date or after the cumulative assignment (test, project, writing assignment) will incur a 50% penalty. Missing assignments will be designated as MSG in Gradespeed until they are turned in and have been graded. Three late or missing assignments will result in a lowered conduct grade.

In the case of absences, the HISD policy will be followed - please refer to student planner.

Conduct

All students will begin each grading cycle with an 'E' in conduct. Students will receive cuts in conduct for multiple classroom infractions. On the student's 3rd infraction during one grading cycle, the student's conduct will be cut to an 'S.' On the student's 6th infraction during one grading cycle, the student's parents will be notified, the student's conduct will be cut to a 'P.' Continued infractions, even if minor will result in cluster detentions or a referral to the house principal.

Classroom infractions may include, but are not limited to, the following: missing/late assignments, tardy to class, having gum or candy during class, behaving in a disruptive manner during class, turning in assignments late, or failure to bring classroom supplies. Please note that severe misbehavior, disrespect, or classroom disruption will result in a disciplinary referral to the house principal in addition to an automatic conduct cut.

Cheating, Copying, and Plagiarism

Cheating, copying, and plagiarism are Level II offenses and will result in an administrative referral. Students must take responsibility for their own learning and they acquire no skills by claiming another's work as their own. A student must also take a stand for honesty and not allow others to copy his or her work.

If the student is caught cheating, copying, or plagiarizing work, the student will be allowed to re-do the entire assignment in a tutoring session and a grade penalty will be assessed. Depending on the circumstances of the offense, the student may be referred for disciplinary action.

Plagiarism is defined in the *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary* as:

plagiarizing- transitive verb: to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (another's production) without crediting the source

intransitive verb: to commit literary theft: present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

Technology

Students will have a variety of technology available to them in English class: laptops, iPads, etc.

Google Classroom will be utilized for various learning opportunities at www.classroom.google.com (student account and class code needed for access).

***Penalties for Improper Use of Technology**

The use of the network is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused. Misuse, damage, or vandalism of HISD technology resources may also lead to disciplinary and/or legal action, including suspension, expulsion, or criminal prosecution by governmental authorities.

