

## **8th Grade English Syllabus**

**Melinda Ralls, Instructor**

### ***Course Description:***

8th grade English involves the six major disciplines that make up communication arts: reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing and visually presenting. 8th grade English will include an in-depth practice in critical thinking based on a variety of genres of literature such as: fiction(including novels and short stories, poems), non-fiction, the epic poem and drama. There will also be a grammar with emphasis placed on the correct use of grammar intermingled throughout the year. In addition, there will be weekly vocabulary tests. The course will also focus on composition, research skills, and the use of technology to prepare students for higher education. Students will be asked to write in a variety of styles including; comparison/contrast, expository research writing, and the narrative style.

### ***Course Objectives:***

1. Identify and analyze the elements of short stories.
2. Identify and analyze the elements of a novel.
3. Identify and analyze the elements of non-fiction.
4. Identify and analyze the characteristics of poetry and prose.
5. Identify and analyze the elements of drama.
6. Demonstrate the elements of formal writing and research to produce a variety of written works.
7. Review and identify a variety of grammatical elements such as parts of speech, sentence structure, proper word use, etc.
8. Expand vocabulary through new words as they are incorporated with each piece of literature read.

### ***Course Outline:***

The course will start with a unit on fiction and then move through the different genres of writing with an in depth study of each. During each genre, literature, grammar and writing skills will be incorporated as well as the use of technology for research, writing, visual presentations, etc. Skill worksheets as well as quizzes are used with most of the readings in each section. Vocabulary will also be incorporated with each reading and weekly vocabulary quizzes will be given.

### ***Grade determination:***

Grading will be a record of points earned on tests, quizzes, writings and some daily work. Points may also be awarded for classroom participation and behavior on any given day. Each student's total points earned will be divided by the total points possible in order to come up with a percentage to be given on the quarterly reports. Absence and tardiness will adversely affect the student's grade, as missed notes will result in missed information necessary for tests and quizzes.

### ***Virtual Learning Grading policy:***

- Students will be responsible for completing all assignments.
- The assignments for the week and any information needed to complete them will be posted on Monday morning by 8 am and will need to be completed by Saturday night at 11:59 pm.
- The assignments will be graded and posted for Monday eligibility.
- **\*\*Major projects that have taken more than one week to complete will take at least 2 weeks to grade.**

- Any assignments that are not completed will be entered as a zero until the student makes up the work.
- If a student makes up work, they will need to email me and let me know they have made that work up. I will not go back and check without notification from the student.
- The student will have 2 weeks or until the end of the quarter, whichever comes first, to complete the make up work. After that time, it will be a permanent zero.

***Classroom Expectations:***

1. The Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would like done unto you.
2. Be prepared and work hard. I will not ask you to do anything that has not been explained to you, but you must pay attention, study and ask questions to get the most out of your learning opportunity.