

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts

## Course Syllabus

**Instructor: Mrs. Bridget Newell**

**Email: [bridget.newell@tvcs.org](mailto:bridget.newell@tvcs.org)**

**Phone: (352) 259-0044**

**Room # 211**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts classroom is an environment that supports high expectations and active participation for all students as they develop skills in the main areas of English Language Arts instruction: Reading, writing, speaking and listening, research, media literacy and language.

According to the Florida Standards, the primary objective for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts is for students to learn to deconstruct, or break down, complex text for comprehension and to demonstrate their understanding effectively using textual evidence in both speaking and writing. These critical thinking and communication skills are essential for success in secondary education and the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace and will, therefore, be our main focus throughout the school year.

### **TEXTBOOK/CURRICULUM**

*Pearson Common Core Literature Florida*

*Coach Digital*

McGraw-Hill StudySync

### **ASSESSMENT**

Students' grades will be determined by using the following categories and percentages:

Practice	--	30%
Performance (Mastery)	--	70%

**Grading Scale:** A (90-100) B (80-89) C (70-79) D (60-69) F (0-59)

### **CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS/RULES**

1. Be on time and where you are supposed to be. (Prompt)
2. Be prepared and on task. (Prepared)
3. Ask for what you need. (Positive)
4. Strive for excellence and always do your best. (Productive)
5. Respect the rights, responsibility, and property of others. (Polite)

You are responsible for reading and following the student handbook as well as classroom procedures and classroom rules. When you make a choice that violates classroom and/or school rules, disciplinary consequences will be implemented. Please refer to the following documents found on the [tvcs.org](http://tvcs.org) website under "middle school", "Forms/Documents/Newsletters":

- VCMS Student Handbook
- 19-20 Classroom Behavior Management Plan

## PROCEDURES

**Entering the Classroom:** Students will enter the classroom and find their assigned seat. They are to get out their supplies and sharpen any pencils if needed. Any homework due should also be out, on top of the desk to be collected. Students should begin working on the bell ringer and when finished, note what we will be doing in class in their planner. If returning from an absence, students will consult the absent clipboard.

**Exiting the Classroom:** Students should not pack up their belongings early nor stand by the doorway. When the bell rings, students should exit the room when the teacher dismisses class without shouting and pushing or shoving one another.

**Getting your Attention:** When necessary, the teacher will say “Hakuna” and the students will echo “Matata” as a strategy for students to stop what they are doing/saying and give their attention to the teacher.

**Finishing Early:** If students finish an assignment early, especially after completing a test, they should first proofread their work for mistakes or missed directions. Afterwards, students may read their AR book.

**Restroom:** Students have enough time to use the restroom between classes. When students need to leave the classroom for the restroom, they need to raise their hand to ask. Students will be given 3 bathroom passes per grading period. They will give the teacher this pass to use the restroom if needed. Any unused passes may be submitted for extra credit at the end of the grading period. Students will sign-out at the clipboard with their name, time, and date and take the pass provided. Upon return, students should enter a time back into the room, return the pass and quietly find their seat.

### **Daily Required Materials:**

- 1 inch, clearview, white Binder (kept in classroom)
- 5 tabbed dividers
- Pencil pouch for binder
- 1 Folder with prongs
- Pens & pencils
- Chromebook
- Highlighters

**Google Classroom:** All communication with students is primarily handled through Google Classroom. Due dates of assignments are linked between the Google Calendar and through my Teacher Connection page. However, more detailed information about those assignments may be found in Google Classroom. Students are expected to follow appropriate Netiquette guidelines when using devices connected to the internet. Misuse of devices in the classroom will result in the student losing the privilege of using the device and administrative consequences as outlined in the student handbook.

**Google Classroom Codes:**1st Period: **2ev2sc**2nd Period: **livyn2**3rd Period: **8n7m9n0**4th Period: **hbhy04b**6th Period: **ql2or6f**7th Period: **7rt5iv7**

**Make-up Work:** When students need to check what they have missed from an excused or school related absence, they are to check the absent clipboard at the student station. Find the date and open the clipboard for any handouts or notes. If a student is confused about a concept and/or assignment from an absence, please come to tutoring before school at 7:15 AM.

**Late Work:** According to school policy, any work that is turned in late, besides missing work due to an absence, will be graded as shown in the chart as follows.

1 day late	60% maximum
2 or more days late	0%

**ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AND COMMUNICATION**

I am available to any student or parent requesting additional assistance or needing additional information. If you choose to email me, please remember to put "Student" in the subject line so your email will reach me through the VCS web filter. If you prefer to contact me by phone, please call the school office and leave a message requesting me to return your phone call. If I need to contact you, I will first try to contact you through email unless you have indicated a preference for phone contact on the return form.

# Syllabus for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts

2019-2020

Instructor: Mrs. Bridget Newell

**\*\*\*\*\* PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS PAGE BY MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2019\*\*\*\*\***

I have read this syllabus and the 2019-2020 Classroom Behavior Management Plan. I understand the expectations communicated and the consequences that will be applied if I choose to fail to follow them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Class Period

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Printed Name

In order to make communication between home and school as smooth as possible, please provide both your email and telephone information below, and then indicate your preferred method of contact.

\_\_\_ **Parent/Guardian Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **Parent/Guardian Telephone Number(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **I prefer an email**

\_\_\_ **I prefer a phone call, and the best time to reach me is** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **Either method is fine, and I have provided the information for both above**

*(Return this page only)*