

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA

## Course Syllabus

**Instructor: Mrs. Melanie Davis**

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

**Room # 211**

### **LEARNING MODEL STATEMENT**

Regardless of the learning model in which students are scheduled, Traditional Model, Buffalo eLearning, or VCS Online, students are required to meet all expectations of the course guidelines.

### **SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

- Students will be greeted at the door and a small portion of hand sanitizer will be dispensed onto the palms of their hands upon entry to the classroom.
- Students will wear face coverings whenever social distancing or the use of partitions is unable to be honored in the classroom.
- Students should come to class prepared with personal classroom materials in order to limit the sharing of supplies.
- Students are expected to thoroughly wash their hands for 20 seconds or more before exiting the restroom and returning to the classroom.
- Students will only be allowed to use hallway water fountains to refill personal water bottles.
- When necessary, students are expected to practice coughing and sneezing etiquette.
- Students are expected to transition quickly between classes and will be required to wear face coverings.

### **ADDITIONAL SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR THIS COURSE:**

- **Face coverings will be worn at all times in this classroom.**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English 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, 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. Because these critical thinking and communication skills are essential for success in secondary education and the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace, these skills will be the main focus throughout the school year.

# TEXTBOOK/CURRICULUM

*Pearson Literature Florida*  
*Coach Performance*  
*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 polite and respectful. Respect the rights, responsibility, and property of others.
2. Be prompt.
3. Be prepared, participate and on task.
4. Be positive.
5. Be Productive- Strive for excellence and always do your best.

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 website under "middle school", "Forms/Documents/Newsletters":

- VCMS Student Handbook
- 20-21 Classroom Behavior Management Plan

## Buffalo eLearning Students

***All Buffalo eLearning students must be logged in for the entire period of each class to be counted as present per the VCS Reopening Plan on page 17.*** Students will sign in and attend school remotely, following a standard school schedule and bell times. Attendance will be taken daily in each course and will be recorded in Skyward each period. All assignments will be monitored for submission per the communicated due date.

### VCMS Bell Schedule

1st period: 8-8:50  
2nd period: 8:54-9:50  
3rd period: 9:54-10:45  
4th period: 10:49-11:40  
5th period: 11:44-1:05 (including a 25-minute lunch period)  
6th period: 1:09-2:00  
7th period: 2:04-2:55

Buffalo eLearning students should follow the same classroom expectations as students in the traditional model. It is highly recommended that school uniform shirts be worn to support a proper learning environment.

*“Students choosing not to participate in instruction and assignments in any of the three offered models will be directed to the following options: Homeschooling, returning to county/district school of residence, and/or retention,”* per the VCS Reopening Plan, page 5.

## **VCS Online Students**

Students will work on assignments during non-traditional hours and maintain contact with their teacher at least one time per week during the teacher’s office hours posted in the course Google Classroom.

## **PROCEDURES**

### **Daily Required Materials:**

- *Pearson Literature* textbook (to be kept in classroom) or current text
- Three-ringed Binder with Tabs and Paper (for English Language Arts ONLY; kept in the classroom)
- Working Folder (to be kept in Binder and removed as needed for homework)
- Pencils with erasers
- Highlighters in Four Colors (blue, green, yellow and pink)

### **Google Classroom:**

Assignments will be posted to my Google Classroom weekly. My Teacher Connection page has each class period’s Google Classroom calendar posted. The code for each classroom period is as follows:

- 1st period - ip5baoy
- 2nd period - t5omwrn
- 3rd period - mbqbhsv
- 4th period - rltvv3n
- 6th period - oibzham
- 7th period - hzpnted

### **Bell Ringer/Dismissal:**

*Bell Ringer* - Students should enter the class quietly with all necessary materials including completed homework and grab their binder off the shelf. Each student should be seated by the time the tardy bell rings, take out necessary materials for the class, and begin working on the classroom “Bell Ringer” activity.

*Dismissal at the end of the class* — Students should remain seated and quiet until dismissed. The area around their desks must be clear of all trash and all supplies and binders put away neatly. This ensures a clean environment for the next group of students. I will dismiss my students when all expectations have been met.

### **Make-up Work:**

If a student is absent from class for any reason, it is his or her responsibility to see the teacher upon return to receive any missed assignments. To receive credit for missed work, a student must turn in assignments within the number of days missed plus one. However, any assignment that has a previously determined due date, that due date must be observed unless arrangements have been made with the teacher.

**Late Work:**

According to school policy, any work that is turned in late, besides missing work due to an absence, will be graded in the following manner:

1 day late	--	60% maximum
2 days late or more	--	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.

*(Make sure that this page stays a separate page to hand out to students)*

Syllabus for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA  
2020-2021  
Instructor: Mrs. Melanie Davis

**\*\*\*\*\* PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS PAGE BY MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2020\*\*\*\*\***

I have read this syllabus and the 2020-2021 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)***