

8th Grade Language Arts 2024-2025

Mrs. Kelly Mikula

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Room 415

This English course follows the standards and benchmarks defined by Michigan's Department of Education. Successful completion of this course is a **requirement** for high school enrollment. More information regarding the state's requirements is available online at www.michigan.gov/mde.

Students will have the opportunity to experience an instructional design that includes whole class learning, peer collaboration, and independent learning. Students will be issued texts and consumable workbooks. They will have access to an online learning platform.

They will employ the AP Quotation Sandwich Writing Model for the majority of their writing activities and assignments. Their papers will follow MLA formatting rules for formatting and sourcing their work. They will be required to complete a research assignment as well.

Class content includes both fiction and nonfiction text and will engage students in the following themes (reading selections will be primarily from the HMH textbook):

Unit One: Gadget and Glitches

Unit Two: The Thrill of Horror

Unit Three: Places We Call Home

Unit Four: The Fight for Freedom

Unit Five: Finding Your Path

Unit Six: Legacy of Anne Frank

Grammar Standards

- Advanced punctuation
- Sentence types
- Syntax variation
- Context of words/phrases
- Vocabulary patterns
- Figures of speech

Writing Standards

- Text types and purposes
- Production and distribution of writing
- Research to build and present knowledge

CLASS DESCRIPTION:

English 8 aims to prepare students for the real-world application of their language arts skills as they transition into high school the following year. Students will participate in engaging new and innovative curriculum designed by the ELA department and HMH publishing.

- Develop range of writing

Writing Types

- Literary Analysis
- Informational/Explanatory
- Argumentative
- Research-based

Reading Standards

- Main ideas/supporting details
- Assessing craft/structure
- Integration of knowledge/ideas
- Develop reading range and level of text complexity

GRADING

All grades will be posted on PowerSchool and will be based on a total points system. Check your grades daily, and stay on top of your assignment scores and missing assignments.

GRADING SCALE			
A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	E	59 ↓

CLASSROOM GUIDELINES

- Be on time; sit in your assigned seat; and come prepared (pencil, textbook, class materials, etc.). Chromebook is to be charged and ready to go each day.
- Be productive; use class time wisely.
- All classroom furniture and devices are essential equipment and must be treated accordingly. Trash belongs in the receptacles provided and not in the desks or on the floor.
- Water only (containers placed on the floor) - No food or beverages are permitted in the classroom.
- No cellphones are allowed. They can be stowed in the student's locker or in the pouches provided in the classroom. Headphones are allowed for instructional purposes only. Only exception for a cellphone is if it is part of a class video project.
- Students' computer usage must abide by the school district's *Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy*.
- Inappropriate use of classroom technology/the internet will result in a loss of computer time.
- Do not alter display or desktop settings (e.g., personalizing background images, etc.)
- Plagiarism and file sharing are considered cheating.
- Take responsibility for your learning; communication is the key!
- Respect yourself and others.
- Extended Learning Opportunities will be assigned for work not completed in a timely manner.

- Help is always available. Please let me know if you need extra assistance (schedule an appointment to meet with me). I am here to help you succeed!

LATE WORK POLICY

Many of the daily assignments given in this course are designed to be completed in class. Assessments, including quizzes and tests, will cover reading, vocabulary, grammar and writing content. Interventions will be put in place should the student need additional assistance for success in the classroom. Essay deadlines are firm and are given well in advance; students are expected to arrange to submit your essay on the due date if you are absent. The Extended Learning Opportunity program will be used effectively and consistently to ensure that you turn in your assignments. Submitting late work will result in a deduction of your grade. Late projects/essays will be deducted 5% each day after the deadline. All other late assignments will automatically be deducted by 30%. Assignments submitted more than three days late, or after the issuance of one or more ELOs, may be deducted by 50%. Excessively late assignments may no longer be eligible for credit.

EXTENSIONS

I am open to extending deadlines; however, deadlines must be approved prior to the day the assignment is due. Extensions will also be issued appropriately for absences. If you know you are going to be absent, inform me so that I can give you your work ahead of time. Please pre-plan, and ask questions in order to allow sufficient time for the completion of assignments.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

1. **BUCKLEY SCHOOLS GMAIL ACCOUNT** - Use of this account is required for accessing various class resources and communicating with the teacher.
2. **PEN OR PENCIL** - Please bring a writing utensil to class **every day!**
3. **FOLDER/BINDER** - Staying organized and being able to quickly retrieve notes, class-related worksheets, and graded materials will help you succeed in this class.