

English 8 Syllabus 2023-2024

WELCOME

Welcome to the course! I'm looking forward to getting to know you over the next few months. This is my 27th year of teaching. I taught for two years at the high school in my hometown of Sault Ste. Marie, MI, ten years at Tahoma Junior High, eleven years at Washington Virtual Academy, and now I'm back in Tahoma. For those of you doing the math, I taught at both TJH and WAVA for one year. :) I earned my Bachelor's Degree in English and Secondary Education from Western Michigan University and my Master's as a Reading Specialist from Central Washington University. I live in Maple Valley with my husband, Derek, three children (Owen, 19, Ada, 16, and Wyatt, 11) and two cats (Charlotte and Ollie).



COURSE DESCRIPTION

In 8th grade ELA, students are immersed into a world of reading, writing, speaking/listening and research. In our Into Literature units, we explore different modes of writing and reading workshops. We will also be engaged with different ways to show our learning throughout the year!

ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS/CRITICAL CONTENT

We will be practicing and honing our skills for the three major modes of writing: narrative, informational, and argument. We will be reading multiple types of genres to gain our best understanding of how ideas are communicated through books. Our students will progress through 4 units of study that weave in reading, writing, speaking/listening, and research.

Essential Questions & Summative Assessment Mode by Unit:

- Unit 1: **The Thrill of Suspense**
 - How do authors create suspense?
 - Movie trailer
 - Narrative Writing
- Unit 2: **The Holocaust**
 - How do we find the light in the darkness?
 - *Night* by Elie Wiesel
 - Research Skills & Annotated Bibliography
- Unit 3: **Finding Your Path**
 - How do the challenges you face today help to shape your future?
 - *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton
 - Argumentative/Literary Analysis
 - Research Skills & Annotated Bibliography
- Unit 4: **The Fight for Freedom**
 - What will people risk to be free
 - Nonfiction & Poetry
 - Informational Writing

STUDENT WORKBOOKS & CLASS NOVELS

- ❖ *Into Lit Student Workbook*
 - Access Directions: Students will be able to use their single sign-in process to access the Into Literature Student Workbook.
- ❖ Novel Study choices
 - Unit 2: The Holocaust
 - *Night* by Elie Wiesel
 - Unit 3: Finding Your Path
 - *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton
- ❖ Additional informational texts (video clips, articles, podcasts, etc.)
- ❖ Additional literary texts (excerpts, video clips, podcasts, literature circles, etc)

GOALS

- Develop and apply active reading strategies to improve literacy skills
- Read fiction and nonfiction
- Write for a variety of purposes and audiences
- Support ideas with textual evidence both verbally and in writing
- Communicate ideas effectively both verbally and in writing
- Use technology to create, communicate and enhance understanding

GRADING POLICY

GRADING SCALE

Grade	Score
A	100-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-87
B	86-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	72-70
D	69-60
F	59 and below

CATEGORY WEIGHTS

Assignments/projects are divided into two different categories within the gradebook: Summative and Formative.

- **40% = Formative Assessments** are items that evaluate how someone is learning material throughout a unit/course.
- **60% = Summative Assessments** are items that evaluate how *much* someone has learned throughout

CHECK STUDENT PROGRESS

- Skyward/Family Access
- Google Classroom Parent Notifications
- Chat with me (kharned@tahomasd.us)

LATE/REDO WORK GUIDELINES

LATE WORK:

- Formative Work is due **BEFORE** the summative assessment for that unit
- Summative Work is due **BEFORE** the next summative assessment

NOTE: If you do not turn your formative work in on time, you will need to fill out a late work form. On the late work form, you must have the following:

- ❖ Name of assignment
- ❖ a short explanation of why the assignment is late
- ❖ a parent signature.

Redo Work

Formative Redo Work is due **BEFORE** the summative assessment for that unit.
Summative Redo Work is due **BEFORE** the next summative assessment.

NOTE:

- ❖ **BEFORE** submitting any Redo Work
 - Email/Discuss the redo with me
- ❖ **AFTER** submitting any Redo Work
 - Email me to let me know if is complete
- ❖ You do not need to complete a form before turning in the assignment

When is Late/Redo Work going to be graded and put into the gradebook?

Late/Redo work will go into the gradebook **AFTER ALL CURRENT** work is graded.



EXPECTATIONS & SUPPLIES

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

- BEARS behavior is expected in and outside of my classroom.
- Offensive remarks about race, gender, preference, or religion will not be tolerated. Parent notification and possible ODR will occur.
- We respect differences and embrace them to better understand what may not be clear.

Students will be:

- **Fully Attentive**
- **Following Timelines**
- **Functioning Collaboratively**



SUPPLIES

- ❖ [9.5" x 5.5" Notebook](#) is preferred, but any notebook will work
- ❖ Pens/Pencils
- ❖ Headphones/earbuds

