

Welcome to Ms. Vieira's 8th grade English Course 2017-2018

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

A new school year is upon us and I would like to welcome you to 8th grade English. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and is ready to begin school. This is an extremely important year because 8th grade is the last step before high school. In this letter, I would like to outline what will be expected of each student and me. At the end of the letter, there is a page for the student and parent/ guardian to sign, acknowledging that you have both read through the pages and agree to the terms mentioned.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Proper English skills are essential to communicating ideas effectively. The students will be assigned compositions that will emphasize the following: structure, punctuation, grammar, vocabulary, and spelling. My goal is to have the students comfortable and excited to convey their thoughts through writing.

Reading fluency and comprehension will also be focused on throughout the year. As an 8th grader, each student is required to read **1 million** words by the end of the year. To aid each student in accomplishing this hefty goal, I am assigning 4 book reports, 1 each quarter. * Keep in mind that I must approve all books *before* the student begins reading. If a student reads a book below their reading level and did not have it approved by me first, they may receive a **zero** on the assignment. We will also be reading novels together as a class to improve.

DAILY EXPECTATIONS:

Respectful, **R**esponsible, **R**eady to Learn

1. *Act like a student.* You are here to learn- behave accordingly. Being a successful 8th grader is your JOB for the next 10 months. To be able to do this job successfully, you need to be prepared for class every day. You need to be prepared to learn, have a positive attitude, and keep an open mind. Bring paper, pens, pencils, your notebook, and any other supplies you may need. Stay on task and complete all assignments on time and to the best of your ability. You also need to respect the rights of your peers. All students learn in different ways and paces.
2. *Dress Accordingly.* This is simple. Your outfit should be in compliance with the school dress code; this is to prepare you for the workplace where you will have to comply with your company's expectations. Fashion is a fun way to express yourself, however, you can do so in an appropriate manner while at school. I will ask students to leave the classroom to change if I see **any** undergarments, too much skin, or anything else that would be against the school's dress code. Remember, this is your job and you need to dress accordingly.
3. *Keep the classroom clean.* This year more than ever, I expect the students to be tidy. Please do not be afraid to ask where something goes if you have forgotten

or simply do not know. I expect the classroom to be in the same condition, if not better, when you leave at the end of the period.

4. *The Classroom Rules.* Be respectful, responsible and honest. Everyone in my classroom (really everywhere always!) has the right to feel safe in the classroom: the right to feel safe to be themselves, learn and communicate.

HOMEWORK:

Homework will be assigned when needed and is due at the beginning of the class period on its assigned day. If extra time is needed, students need to speak to me ahead of time and lay out an academic plan for completion. The types of homework to be expected are unfinished classwork, long term assignments, and assignments to help students prepare for upcoming academic challenges.

PARENT SUPPORT:

Parents are asked to help their children complete homework as well as meet their studying and reading benchmarks by monitoring their time, asking about assignments, and providing a place and the needed materials to facilitate learning that is free of distractions such as cell phones and the internet.

MAKE UP WORK & LATE WORK:

For excused absences, make-up work will be accepted per board policy. Students will have the same number of days to make up an assignment as they were absent. It is *your responsibility* to set up a time to make up any missing classwork, homework, tests and quizzes.

I expect all students to complete their assignments on time. When students do not come to class prepared they are showing disrespect for my time and the time of their peers by affecting the time in class used for playing catch up and not continuing with my lesson plans for that day. If students are going to be late with an assignment, they need to speak with me ahead of time to lay out their academic plan for completion. In reference to grading, if an assignment is turned in late, it will go to the **bottom** of my piles of papers in need of grading. The assignments turned in on time will always get the respect of my attention first. Late work will be handled when all other assignments have been graded.

Late work will be accepted for partial credit. At the 8th grade level in English and history work turned in late (after the due date, after the assignment has been graded) will be given partial credit. Per the DUSD homework and grading policy, late work will be accepted through the end of the unit or the end of the quarter, whichever comes **FIRST**.

GRADING:

A student's grade will be counted by total points. If a large point assignment is missing, it will change the student's grade by a large sum. I have a lot of students, and though I do my best, I make mistakes. Check parent portal and grade print outs to make sure you are receiving the grade you have earned! If there is a mistake, please bring it to my attention in a polite manner and I will be happy to fix any issues.

- A 94%-100%
- A - 90%-93%
- B + 87%-89.4%
- B 83%-87%
- B - 80%-83%
- C + 77%-79.4%

C 73%-77%
C - 70%-73%
D + 67%-69.4%
D 63%-67%
D - 60%-63%
F 59.4% AND BELOW

TEXT BOOKS:

Each student will be issued several textbooks and novels. The property must be returned, and if lost or damaged, fines must be paid to be cleared for promotion.

Language Arts: Literature, Reading and Language—Grade Eight: Pearson
Writing and Grammar: Prentice Hall

Novels: *Schooled*, Gordon Korman
You Don't Know Me, David Klass
Chew on This

As the year progresses, students will be required to read at home.

WMS TARDIES POLICY:

Students who are tardy to class interrupt the teacher's instructional plan and the learning process of all students in the class, and their tardiness affects their ability to achieve. Students are considered TARDY if they are not sitting in their seats ready for instruction when the bell rings.

- Tardy 1-2: Handled by the classroom teacher. Parents are notified by teacher.
- Tardy 3-4: Student is assigned an after school detention by the Assistant Principal/Dean of Students and may be placed on a contract.
- Tardy 5: In one class (or 10 overall) in a quarter will result in a Saturday School and loss of Good Standing status.
- Continued tardies will result in subsequent Saturday Schools, parent/administrator conference, attendance contract, possible SARB referral, and Work Detail.

COMMUNICATION:

We can communicate by email (if available), by phone, and by notes to and from home. The planner serves as a daily way for students to show their parents their homework, and upcoming deadlines.

Please check my website (<http://www.dublin.k12.ca.us/Domain/1243>) as I update it frequently with the class work that is needs to be turned in or any upcoming tests, projects or presentations.

Thank you!

Ms. Vieira
vieiramallory@dublinusd.org
925-828-6227 x 6053
<http://www.dublin.k12.ca.us/Domain/1243>

I have read and discussed Mrs. Vieira's classroom rules and procedures with my parent/guardian and I agree to comply with these rules and expectations.

Student Name (Please Print):

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

I have read and discussed Ms. Vieira’s classroom rules and procedures with my student and I agree to comply with these rules and expectations.

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print):

Parent/ Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Anything I should know? (Include preferred method of contact!)
