

T.C.M.S. 8th Grade Advanced Language Arts Syllabus

2018-2019

Contact Information:

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Conferences and Tutoring:

Team Conferences are available by appointment only. Please contact the Grade Level Administrator and/or teacher. The 8th grade team conference times are on Friday 7:45-8:15am and 3:05-3:35pm.

Tutoring/Extra Help will be offered before school on Tuesdays 7:45 - 8:15 a.m. Students need to come on time and prepared with questions and must sign up at least one day prior to tutoring. Teacher will meet students in the cafe.

Course Materials

1. ½ inch 3 ring binder
2. Pens: blue or black in only (must last the school year)
3. Pencils (must last the school year)
4. Highlighters (2 colors)
5. Pocket Folder (used for in-class Writing Portfolios)
6. Lined Loose Leaf paper (2 packs or as needed, college ruled)
7. USB drive
8. Laptop: Students are not required but are welcome to bring laptops to class. Must be registered with Ms. Long (Media center) before classroom use.

Class Novels: (read in the following order)

1. Legend by Marie Lu
2. Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James Swanson
3. Animal Farm by George Orwell
4. Lord of the Flies by William Golding
5. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare

Projected Curriculum:

Topics Covered: Writing, Literature (Literary Elements), and Reading

Writing: Explanatory/Informational, Argumentative and Formal Writing (The Research Paper)

Literature (Literary Elements) Figurative language, Predicting, Author's Purpose, Science fiction/Fantasy Cause & Effect, Inference, Main idea, Supporting details, Compare/Contrast, Context Clues

Reading - Increasing fluency

Vocabulary

Sadlier *Vocabulary Workshop* (Workbook)
Prefixes, suffixes and root words.
Selected vocabulary from novels

Grammar

Parts of speech
Conventions
Sentence variety
Complex/compound sent.

Speaking and Listening

Class presentations
Listening for information
Critical Thinking Strategies
Author's purpose

Our advanced Language Arts Curriculum is supported by *The Florida State Standards* designed to lead all children toward college and career readiness.

Grading

Grading Scale

90-100.....	A	Outstanding
80-89.....	B	Above average
70-79.....	C	Average
60-69.....	D	Below average
0-59.....	F	Failure

Grading Category Weightings

Major Assessments (test, project, Essay)	50%
Minor Assessments (quizzes)	30%
Class work/Participation	10%
Homework	10%

Policies and Procedures

Late Work

a) At no time will a student's homework, which includes assigned classroom and out of classroom projects be accepted late, unless approved by the teacher and for emergency circumstances only.

b) Under no condition may a family member bring a student's homework, projects, book bags, etc to school. These items will not be accepted by any TCMS employee.

C) Larger projects and research papers will be accepted late. However, for each day late, 10 points will be deducted.

Tardies

A student is considered late to class when the student is not in the classroom when the tardy bell rings. Tardiness will be dealt with according to handbook policy.

Bathroom

Students are encouraged to use the bathroom during their 5 minute pass time. Per TCMS policy, students should be advised they may not (unless there is an emergency) leave the classroom during the first 10 minutes or the last 10 minutes of class.

Plagiarism:

Is defined as: *an act or instance of using or closely imitating the language and thoughts of another author without authorization and the representation of that author's work as one's own, as by not crediting the original author. (Dictionary.com)*

If a student intentionally takes another person's writing and uses it as their own (i.e. cutting and pasting or directly copying text from online) they can expect to receive a zero on the assignment and a step on a behavior referral resulting in a meeting with their GLA and after school detentions. The Language Arts Teacher will be contacting the child's parent to explaining the situation and seriousness of the infraction.

Team Expectations

Part 1

1. Students must wear appropriate uniforms at all times: shirts must be tucked-in, belts must be worn if garments have belt loops.
2. Bring appropriate class materials.
3. Be seated and using planner or working on bell work when the bell rings.
4. Respect yourself, others and the learning environment.
5. Use Planner for assignments and upcoming tests/quizzes every day.
6. Stay seated unless otherwise given permission.
7. Do your own work. Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of "0", detention and referral step.

Part 2

1. Furthermore, as stated in our TCMS Handbook for both parent and students, we stress the importance of communication between parent and school:

100.09 Communication to Home

TCMS has an excellent middle school model for parent and community communications. As a student matriculates, our philosophy of middle school fosters a school business climate which

promotes maturity and self-responsibility. While we are aware maturing adolescents may inadvertently forget to complete assignments hindering their ability to reach their full potential, TCMS believes that using the school planner will maximize student performance. Therefore, it is important to ensure that school information, paper work, homework, newsletters, and the like are delivered daily to the parent/guardian through the school planner.

This highlighted statement from the handbook is the reasoning behind our Planner checks. Often when homework is not done to class specifications, a teacher can refer to the planner and see if the information was copied in the planner completely and correctly. If it is forgotten, a teacher can make note in the planner for parents to note. If homework is done incorrectly, the teacher may redirect the student back to their notes and show them what part of the instructions they need to rewrite.

2. The Language Arts Department made the decision to require weekly planner checks as part of the Language Arts curriculum in recent years because it encourages students to become better organized in their study skill, promotes accurate and regular homework assignment completion, and finally, encourages teacher/student/parent communication if the parent checks and signs the planner at least once a week as requested.
3. **Class Rule:** Students in all classes at TCMS have been directed to record their homework as part of their daily Bell work assignment in class. By not following this set, daily procedure, they are disobeying class rules. Students have also been instructed to maintain their planners in a neat and orderly fashion. Just like a binder or notebook assigned in class, it is part of the TCMS school-wide book bundle sold in school. As such, it should be maintained as directed by the teachers. Due to the occasion when a teacher needs to refer back to a planner for a parent signature, or other information, the planner should not be defaced, pages should not be torn out; folded or colored in. If a planner is lost, students are required to purchase a new one.

8 LA Syllabus Agreement

Please print, sign, and return this portion to class on Friday, August 17, 2018

Parent: _____

Student: _____