

NORTH HUSKY
P. R. I. D. E.



Welcome Back!

Welcome to 8th grade English Language Arts. We are excited about the implementation of Common Core Standards and 21st Century skills that will be imbedded as part of this year's curriculum. The 8th grade ELA team has been working hard this summer to make an enriching learning experience.

PLC:

A major change this year has been the creation of PLC's (Professional Learning Communities). Teachers of the same content and grade level will collaborate on the standards and instruction delivered daily. The very essence of a *learning* community is a focus on and a commitment to the learning of each student. Members work together to clarify exactly what each student must learn, monitor each student's learning on a timely basis, provide logical interventions that ensure students receive additional time and support for learning when they struggle, and extend and enrich learning when students have already mastered the intended outcomes.

PBIS & EXPECTATIONS:

With the school-wide adoption of PBIS at North Junior High School, the classroom expectations will remain consistent throughout the school and language arts classrooms.

“PREPARED AND RESPECTFUL INDIVIDUALS WITH INTEGRITY DETERMINED TO EXCEL.”

STANDARDS-BASED GRADING:

To better assess individual learning and mastery, the conventional grading scale will not be used. Instead, the 8th grade ELA teachers have opted for a Standards-Based grading system. This will allow teachers to measure students' proficiency on well-defined course objectives and determine if a student knows the content and not whether they can just do the work. Parents will not see as many grades recorded in the grade book and will see less paperwork in the classroom. Teachers will be intentional with standards-focused instruction that will be differentiated from the common formative (Pre-test) and summative assessments (Post-test) given. Instead of the conventional A, B, C, D, & F scale, a proficiency point system will be used.

- 3+ (or 4 on RDS) means the student have advanced mastery of the standard/skill
- 3 means the student has mastered the standard/skill
- 2 means the student is approaching mastery of the standard/skill
- 1 means the student is below mastery and needs improvement

The great thing about this scale is that grades will no longer be averaged for a skill. If a student begins the standard at a level 2 and through daily instruction and practice shows they have now mastered the skill being taught, they will move to a level 3 as the final grade. Therefore, grades on RDS can change and the overall semester grade shown might not reflect the final grade.

Please take note:

- No late work accepted—unless absent, students will build daily on previous instruction
- No extra credit given—we want the grade to reflect the true learning taking place

For more information, please check the website additional resources
Gusky, YouTube-SolutionTree Grading, Marzano

SUPPLY LIST:

- 2" binder (any color)*
- Tab Dividers (at least 10)*
- Loose leaf paper (3 hole punched)
- Writing Utensil
- Highlighter (optional)
- 1 GB (or higher) flash drive dedicated solely for school work (will be available in NJHS bookstore)

**not required for students in Mrs. Yates's honors classes*

ENGLISH FEE:

\$5.00

WISH LIST (NOT REQUIRED BUT VERY HELPFUL):

- Box of pencils
- Kleenex box
- Package of loose leaf paper
- Dividers
- Flash Drives
- Gently Used free reading books for classroom libraries

TEXTBOOKS:

We will be using multiple textbooks this year. Each classroom will have a complete set with extras to be checked out as needed. Textbooks will be used for in-class instruction only. Homework assignments will not require the use of textbooks.

COMMUNICATION:

The 8th grade ELA team has supplied multiple venues to enhance the communication between teachers, students, and parents. An 8th grade English language arts website has been created to provide information that pertains to all students. Within that website, each individual ELA teacher will host their own page and will update that with information that is relevant to their personal classroom. You will also find a link to each teacher's blog that will be updated almost daily with "happenings" from inside their room. You should be able to find a daily review, links to handouts, pictures, upcoming events, and expectations.

www.njhs8ela.weebly.com

PLEASE COMPLETE & RETURN ASAP:

Student Name: _____ Period: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Email (print clearly): _____

Cell # _____ Work# _____ Home# _____

Additional contact person (*another parent, grandparent, relative, etc*)

Email (print clearly): _____

Cell # _____ Work# _____ Home# _____

Internet at home: yes no

Would you like your student to check out an at-home copy of the textbooks? [optional]

yes no