

English Language Arts 8

Mayerthorpe Jr. Sr. High School

Course Outline 2019-2020

Instructor: Mrs. Kelly Harris

Room: 128

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Google Classroom code: qtzk8y

RESOURCES/TEXTS/SUPPLIES

1. Textbook: **Sightlines 8** (Anthology)
2. Junior High Writing Handbook, compiled by MHS
3. Novel Study - **The Giver**
4. Independent Novel Studies
5. TBA Film(s)/Documentaries
6. Teacher Provided Resources

MATERIALS

Students are required to bring to each class:

- binder with lined paper
- writing utensil (blue or black pen, or pencil)
- assigned textbook

Upon arrival, any other supplies will be listed on the board and must be obtained immediately from their lockers.

English Language Arts 8: Outcomes & Assessments:

The Language Arts 8 curriculum includes five general learner outcomes. **Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:**

1. explore thoughts, ideas, feelings, and experiences
2. comprehend and respond personally and critically to oral, print, and media texts
3. manage ideas and information
4. enhance the clarity and artistry of communication
5. celebrate and build community

The general outcomes are interrelated and interdependent; each is to be achieved through a variety of listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing, and representing experiences. The goal is to build upon and maintain the students ability and talent in the English language arts program. There will be specific English Language Arts 8 assignments and tests. Also, some of these outcomes will be met cross-curricularly with the Social 8 curriculum.

English Language Arts 8: Outcomes & Assessments:

Due to the nature of the Humanities 8 course, there will not be traditional ELA 8 “units.” Instead, the ELA 8 outcomes will be met throughout the course. However, there will be an intensive “grammar and writing” unit at the beginning of the year, as well as dedicated novel study and poetry units. Other genres that will be focused on throughout include fiction, non-fiction, and multi-media material.

A variety of formative and summative assessments, as well as tests and quizzes, will be used to meet each outcome. Major assessments will be both **writing compositions** and **reading comprehension** tests throughout the year. The chart below outlines the specific learning outcomes assessed.

Writing (Short Story, Paragraphs, Essays, Letters)

- Use strategies and cues to respond to texts
- Plan and focus to manage ideas and information
- Organize, record, evaluate information and sources
- Create original text
- Enhance and improve writing techniques and organization
- Attend to grammar, spelling and punctuation
- Present and share

Categories of Assessment

1. **Content** - Students develop, organize, and evaluate ideas for a specified purpose and audience.
2. **Organization and Management** - Students organize their ideas to produce a unified and coherent composition that links events, details, sentences, and paragraphs, and that supports their purpose.
3. **Sentence Structure** - Students control sentence structure and use a variety of sentence types, sentence beginnings, and sentence lengths to enhance communication.
4. **Vocabulary** - Students choose specific words and expressions that are appropriate for their audience and effective in establishing a voice/tone that will help to achieve their purpose.
5. **Conventions** - Students use conventions accurately and effectively to communicate.

Reading Comprehension Exams

- Using strategies and cues to respond to texts
- Understanding forms, elements and techniques (ie. devices and genres)
- Categories of reading comprehension exams are Informational and Narrative/Poetic

Levels of Analysis

1. **Identifying and Interpreting Ideas and Details** - Students construct meaning by interpreting ideas and details pertaining to setting/ atmosphere/context, character/narrator/ speaker (actions, motives, and values), conflict, and events.
2. **Interpreting Text Organization** - Students identify and analyze literary genres. Students identify and analyze the text creator’s choice of form, tone, point of view, organizational structure, style, diction, rhetorical techniques, text features, and conventions.
3. **Associating Meaning** - Students use contextual clues to determine the denotative and connotative meaning of words, phrases, and figurative language.
4. **Synthesizing Ideas** - Students draw conclusions and make generalizations by integrating information in order to identify the tone, purpose, theme, main idea, or mood of a passage.

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CONTENT/TIMELINE	DATES
Get Writing: Reading and writing as a writer (voice, style, conventions, paragraphs, narratives, and other forms of writing)	Throughout the year
Non-fiction	8 Weeks
Short Story	8 Weeks
Poetry	8 Weeks
Media	8 Weeks
Class and Independent Novel studies	Throughout year

EVALUATION	
Assessment for Learning (pretest, homework, practice)	No Weighting
Assignments and daily work/homework	15%
Writing and Projects	35%
Tests (Quizzes and Exams; Reading Comprehension)	30%
Final Exam	20%

STUDENT ASSESSMENT:

Assessment for Learning (Formative Assessment) is a systematic process of collecting information or evidence about student learning and is not assigned a grade/mark for the report card. **Assessment of Learning (Summative Assessment)** the judgment we make about the assessments of student learning based on established criteria and a mark/grade is recorded for the report card. The purpose of assessment is to improve student learning. This means that judgments of student performance must be criterion-referenced so that descriptive feedback can be given that includes clearly expressed next steps for improvement. Tools of varying complexity are used by the teacher to facilitate this. For the more complex evaluations, the criteria are incorporated into a rubric where levels of performance for each criterion are stated in language that can be understood by students. Where possible, students will be engaged in their own assessment through self-reflection and the construction of rubrics

Assessment is embedded within the instructional process throughout each unit rather than being an isolated event at the end. Often, the learning and assessment tasks are the same, with formative assessment provided throughout the unit. In every case, the desired demonstration of learning is articulated clearly and the learning activity is planned to make that demonstration possible. This process of beginning with the end in mind helps to keep focus on the expectations of the course curriculum outcomes. The evaluations are expressed as a percentage/mark/grade based upon levels of achievement.

GRADE DETERMINATION:

Term grade determination: Grade will be based upon evaluations conducted throughout the course. This portion of the grade will reflect the student's most consistent level of achievement throughout the course, although special consideration will be given to more recent evidence of achievement.

Final grade determination: Grade will be based on the accumulation of term grade evidence and a final examination administered at the end of the course (this exam will be based on an evaluation of all units of the course). This grade will reflect the student's most consistent level of achievement throughout the course, although special consideration will be given to more recent evidence of achievement.

APPEALS PROCESS

Should a situation arise where a student is not satisfied with an assessment outcome, first discuss the matter with the teacher outside of class time. If the teacher and the student are unable to resolve the issue, then the teacher will approach another teacher to assess the assignment. (The teacher will not have prior knowledge of the student's name or the previous grade for the given assignment). If there is still an issue, a meeting will be set up between the student, teacher, parents, and administration to resolve the matter. The commencement of an appeal must occur in a timely manner; within 48 hours of receiving the marked assignment. In return, the appeal process will be completed as soon as possible.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE STUDENT:

General Classroom Rules:

- Follow all school rules and expectations within the classroom as well as in the hallway before, during and after class time.
- Show respect to others within the classroom.
- Be prepared for class.
- Students are responsible for cleaning up after themselves while in the classroom.
- Cell phones and other personal electronic devices are not allowed in the classroom. Listening to music may be allowed during a work period with teacher approval on the chromebooks provided.

Assignments/Projects Rules

- Complete all assignments to the best of your ability and the standard set by the teacher.
- It is the student's responsibility to make up missing or incomplete assignments due to a late or absence.
- If a student is not handing in their assignments in a timely manner, parents will be contacted, and the student may be required to attend a noon hour detention. Continuing to not hand in assignments may result in School Administration becoming involved.

Tests/Quizzes/Essays Rules

- If a student is away on the day of a test, quiz or essay, then they will write it immediately on their return.
- All tests, quizzes and essays are singular events that **MUST** be completed in the prescribed time frame. Students will not be given extra time unless pre-approved by the teacher.

Plagiarism Rules

- Plagiarism is defined as: wrongfully using another's language, thoughts, ideas or expressions as your own. This includes, copy and pasting from the internet, and copying from another student in the class.
- It is **unacceptable** that students plagiarize OR cheat. Such actions are considered a discipline issue.
- Student will be evaluated based on any evidence of work completed by him/her within the plagiarized piece.
- Parents will be notified of the event. If behaviour continues, a meeting with administration will occur.
- If you are unsure then you should ask the teacher, or reference the ideas/thoughts that you are using

Digital Citizenship

Because we will be frequently using computer labs, laptops, and tablets, students must also abide by the digital citizenship agreement (Administrative Procedure 140) with Northern Gateway.

If student abuses the privilege, he/she will be required to complete work other ways (example: pen and paper). Misuse of personal devices will be dealt with according to the student agenda policy.

Dear **ELA 8** Student and Parent(s),

Please review this course outline, fill in the information below and turn it in on google classroom to signify that you have read and understand its contents, and the expectations and responsibilities. If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to meet to see how your child is doing, I can be reached at 780-786-2624 or kelly.harris@ngps.ca.

Sincerely,

Kelly Harris

I have read and understand what is required of me/my child for this course:

Student name: _____

Parent/Guardian name: _____

If you would like to be reached via e-mail, please provide address below.

Parent/Guardian e-mail: _____