

8th Grade English and History
Language & Literature and Individuals & Societies
Syllabus for the 25/26 School Year
Pickard Elementary IB World School
Mr. Neville
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Course Description: 8th grade is a critical year because it is your final year of elementary school; my goal for this school year is to equip each student with the academic skills necessary to succeed in high school. This school year will be difficult and will require students to provide their best effort if they are to graduate. Students will be exposed to a rigorous curriculum that will foster academic independence. Throughout all four quarters, my teaching will rely on research-based instructional strategies like cooperative grouping, culturally relevant lessons, International Baccalaureate practices, and inquiry based learning. Our academic year is divided into four quarters:

- **Quarter 1:** Reading Focus: *Anya's Ghost*
Writing Focus: Biographies, autobiographies, personal narratives
Social Studies Focus: Civics: Participation in Government
- **Quarter 2:** Reading Focus: *Long Way Down*
Writing Focus: Informational writing, argumentative essays, grammar
Social Studies Focus: Civics: Operating a Democracy
- **Quarter 3:** Reading Focus: *Romeo and Juliet*
Writing Focus: Poetry, creative writing, punctuation, persuasive writing
Social Studies Focus: World War One
- **Quarter 4:** Reading Focus: *Short Stories*
Writing Focus: Figurative language, expository writing, descriptive essays
Social Studies Focus: World War Two

8th Grade Instructors:

1. **Mr. Neville:** English language Arts and Social Studies
2. **Mr. Morgan:** Math and Science
3. **Mr. Zarco:** Special Education

Classroom Rules:

1. Put Forth Your Best Effort:

- All I ask is that you try your best.
- Be ready to learn.
- Complete your assignments.
- Do your HOMEWORK!

2. Listen and Follow Directions:

- Please do not talk when I am speaking.
- Listen and pay attention when I am giving instructions.
- Raise your hand. Do not shout out!

3. Be Respectful:

- Treat all teachers and classmates with the same level of respect you wish to be treated with.
- Treat Room 305, the Chromebooks, and school property with respect.
- No bullying. Keep your hands to yourself. Do not touch others.
- You are now the leaders of the school. You need to set a good example for all the other students by acting in a mature manner.

4. No swearing:

- If I overhear you swearing, you will be given detention and your parents will be contacted.
- If it happens repeatedly, you will have a meeting with Mr. Yassenak.

5. Be On Time:

- Please try to be in my classroom by 7:30 a.m.
- At 7:40 a.m, your special teacher (Gym teacher, art teacher, etc.) will arrive at my door to pick up the class.
- If the special teacher leaves without you, you will be considered tardy.
- If you are repeatedly tardy, you will be given detention and your parents will be notified.

6. No Cellphones:

- I will collect and lock-up cellphones at the beginning of class.
- You will get your phone back at the end of the day.

- Do not use AirPods in class.

7. No Chewing Gum:

- You are not allowed to chew gum while in my classroom.
- Do not bring gum to class.
- Do not stick gum on school property.

8. Be Mature:

- You need to act like responsible and mature young adults.
- Y'all are no longer in 3rd grade. Please behave like a young adult should.

9. Do Not Put Your Head Down on Desk:

- When I am lecturing or giving directions, students should not have their head down.
- I do not care if you are listening. You need to keep your head up.

10. Always Ask Before Leaving Class:

- Do not just walk out the door.
- You need to ask me before you go to the bathroom or head to the office.
- Use the sign out sheet and bring the hall pass.

Grade Categories and Weights:

- **Tests/Quizzes:** 40% of your grade
- **Classwork:** 40% of your grade
- **Participation:** 10% of your grade
- **Homework:** 10% of your grade

Late Work/ Make-Up Work Policy:

- If you turn in an assignment a day late, **you will lose 25% of the points.** You

can still turn in the late assignment for 75% credit.

- If you do not turn in the assignment within **two weeks**, the assignment will be marked as a zero. You will not be able to make up the work.
- Talk with me or email me if you would like to do makeup work. You are always welcome to stay with me during lunch to do make up work!
- If you are absent, you can still do the work for full credit. However, the amount of time you have to turn in the missing work is equal to the days you were absent. If you were absent three days, you have three days to get the missing work to me.

Bathroom Policy:

- You can use the bathroom **one time per class**. Do not ask me to use the bathroom multiple times. If you have been in the bathroom for an extended period, I will call security to go check on you.
- I will check the bathroom log before you leave.
- You must use the sign out sheet. Please remember to sign back in when you return to the classroom.

Lunch Detention Policy:

- If a student is being disrespectful, rude, breaking the rules, etc, they will be given a lunch detention. If you are given lunch detention, you need to get your lunch and return to my classroom to spend the entire **lunch and recess** period in my classroom.
- The number of days you spend in detention will depend on the severity of the infraction. Repeated offenses will also result in multiple days of detention.
- Students who are repeatedly breaking the rules will also lose their gym or art privileges. You will stay behind while the rest of the class goes to Prep.
- The principal will be informed any time a student is given detention. Also, parents will be notified if their child receives lunch detention.

Verification of Parent Receipt:

My parents/guardians and I have read and discussed the syllabus and understand what is expected of me in **Mr. Neville's** class:

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Email address: _____

Cell Number: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____