

# Welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English

Ms. Farese

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Dear Students,

Welcome to a new year! I hope your summer was filled with adventure and growth. Below you will find information about English class this year. In eighth grade English, it is our purpose to advance as readers, writers, speakers, listeners, thinkers and members of our global community as we prepare for high school and beyond. Please feel free to seek help or ask questions **whenever needed**. I look forward to a great year with all of you!

Sincerely,  
Ms. Farese

## REQUIRED CLASS MATERIALS

- ✓ **Chromebook -**
  - Your device should be fully charged each morning.
  - Google Drive ELA folder
  - Titled Google Documents
  - Growing ELA Writing Portfolio
  - Bookmark to class website:  
<https://sites.google.com/a/holliston.k12.ma.us/ms-farese-8th-grade-english-class/home>
- ✓ **Prompt and complete homework-** Assignments will range from vocabulary practice to nightly reading.
- ✓ **Independent Reading book on Tuesdays and Thursdays**
- ✓ **Writer's "Notebook" on Vocabulary Assessment Days (mostly Fridays)**

## EXPECTED BEHAVIORS AND HABITS

**Be Prepared:** Arrive every day with required materials and fully completed on-time assignments. Do whatever it takes to be prepared: visit my webpage; hand write papers if there is a problem with the Chromebook; go to the library; call a friend; *"Decide how badly you want it; proceed accordingly."* -Robin Arzon

**Take Initiative and Be Proactive:** Make up missed work. Pay attention in class: listen, read along, and take notes. Reread. Ask questions. And on days when those skills elude you, seek extra help.

**Use Class Time Wisely:** Get started right away. Stay on task and participate actively. Work well with others.

**Learn the Material: Apply It to Your Work:** Your job is to study what professional writers do, and then apply it to your own work. **Take risks.** Failure is part of the learning process. **Your best is always enough.**

**Be Detail-Oriented:** Meet all criteria set forth for an assignment. Take thorough notes from the board, and from discussions. Notice the little things—the details matter!

**Maintain Academic Integrity:** Complete your own work independently. Do not copy others' words or ideas (this includes from friends, parents, books, or the Internet); do not let others copy from you. Plagiarism under any circumstance will not be tolerated.

**Take Risks:** Be willing to try new things, even if they seem scary, silly, useless, or otherwise challenging. **Be brave.** Step outside your comfort zone and into your power as a worthy member of this community. This is how we learn.

**Be Respectful & Responsible:** Take 100% responsibility for your words, actions, work, and effort. **Be kind.** Be honest. Be a team-player. What does the top hashtag say in the corner of my classroom?

## ENGLISH EXTRA HELP

**Wednesdays**, after school, from 2:00 – 3:00pm  
**or by appointment**, after school, from 2:00 – 3:00pm

*Please come prepared with materials and questions. Certainly come if you've been absent; you are responsible for making up missed work.*

# CURRICULUM

## Reading/Literature 35%

### Self-Selected, Independent Reading

- ☑ Read a book of your choice for each night that I do not assign something.
- ☑ In-class reading time will be provided on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Progress and preparedness will be monitored.

### Assigned Reading

- ☑ Read and analyze various genres: novels, short stories, poems, plays, nonfiction, and essays
- ☑ Possible novel titles may include: excerpts from *The House on Mango Street* (Cisneros); *The Outsiders* (Hinton), *Night* (Wiesel), *Of Mice and Men* (Steinbeck), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare)

### Literary Response & Analysis

*Complete various written or discussion activities that demonstrate your:*

- ☑ Comprehension of author's audience and purpose, vocabulary, genre, organization, plot
- ☑ Ability to make inferences, figuring out what the author is implying, beyond the obvious, surface-level meaning
- ☑ Ability to think abstractly
- ☑ Comprehension and analysis of character, setting, mood, theme, symbolism, point of view
- ☑ Comprehension and analysis of the author's style

## Writing/Composition 35%

### Papers

*Use a writer's process to develop a polished final draft of the following:*

- ☑ Short Description Pieces
- ☑ Memoir/Reflection
- ☑ Expository Writing
- ☑ Persuasive Writing
- ☑ Literary Analysis

### Drills

*Complete short practice drills or prewriting exercises focused on but not limited to:*

- ☑ Figurative Language
- ☑ Rhetorical Devices
- ☑ MLA Format
- ☑ Quick Writes
- ☑ Grammar & Sentence Style

### Writing Workshop & Portfolios

- ☑ Writer's Process: with specific focus on planning and revising
- ☑ Goal-Setting
- ☑ Reflection on strengths, weaknesses, effort, and growth
- ☑ Self-Evaluation

## Language 30%

### Oral Presentations

- ☑ Give Speeches
- ☑ Memorize and perform various words by Shakespeare
- ☑ Participate in Open Mic Fridays

### Discussions

- ☑ Participate in Socratic Seminars (student-led discussions)
- ☑ Participate in both small and large groups

### Vocabulary

- ☑ Learn Greek roots, prefixes, and suffixes, and associated words
- ☑ Learn literary terminology
- ☑ Learn words found in or related to readings

## Grade per Trimester: 100%

## CLASSWORK

*Below is a general outline of what English class might look like on a typical day:*

**Warm-Up:** Students may complete a vocabulary practice, grammar practice, content review, preview for day's lesson or silently read a book of your choice.

**Mini-Lesson:** Teacher provides instruction, directions, models the skill, thinks-aloud, uses examples

**Readers' and/or Writers' Workshop Time:** Students practice and apply the skills or content focused on during the mini-lesson. Students will work individually, in pairs, or small groups. Teacher input, support, encouragement, and challenges are provided at this time. Each Friday/Assessment day will contain a writer's workshop and voluntary as well as assigned Open Mic presentations.

## HOMEWORK

*Homework assignments may include, but are not limited to the following tasks:*

- ☑ Independent reading
- ☑ Assigned readings – with specific instructions / tasks
- ☑ Writing or revising papers
- ☑ Vocabulary exercises and studying for quizzes
- ☑ Practicing grammar and sentence style skills
- ☑ Preparing / practicing for speeches or Socratic Seminars
- ☑ Respect Tweet (in-class bulletin board post)