

Valley Center Middle School
Language Arts 8
Mr. Jeffrey Yarush



August 2025

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Welcome to eighth grade! I am ecstatic to have your child in my class this year. This letter contains important information to assist you and your student. Together, we can make this a productive and successful year in your student's education.

Course Description

Eighth grade Language Arts utilizes StudySync to focus on mastery of state standards. Students will develop thinking, speaking, and listening skills to analyze literature and informational text.

Valley Center Middle School reinforces independent reading using Accelerated Reader. Students will be expected to take AR tests each month as part of their grade. Students will be reading their AR book during the Reading Zone period each day. Students must read one or more books a month and take an AR test, earning 75% or higher. Students will maintain a reading log of current and completed novels for a monthly teacher check.

Classroom Etiquette

I have developed classroom behavior expectations that afford every student a choice to make good decisions for a positive learning environment. Furthermore, the students will have an opportunity to come up with a short, general list of rules for the class that will be displayed at the front of the classroom. Students meeting these expectations will be rewarded with verbal recognition, a positive note or call home, and/or special privileges. Respect for these expectancies should allow all students the opportunity to enjoy a well-disciplined class in which reward, rather than punishment, is stressed. The plan below outlines my expectations and consequences.

Behavior Expectations

1. Enter the classroom quietly and be ready to work when the bell rings.
2. Raise a hand and wait to be called on before speaking.
3. Maintain respect for all members of the class, including the teacher.
4. Remain seated and on task until the teacher (not the bell) dismisses the class.
5. Refrain from chewing gum and eating or drinking anything (except water) in class.
6. Follow all school rules outlined in the student handbook.

Consequences

1. Warning
2. Any combination of the following: warning, teacher phone call to parents, change of seat, campus beautification, assignment to lunch detention
3. Conference (parent(s), teacher and student)
4. Referral to office. Principal will take appropriate action that may include notification of parents, parent conference and/or suspension.

****Note:** Severe disruption will result in immediate referral to the principal.

Absent and Late Work Policy

All assignments for the week will be clearly posted on Google Classroom and in the classroom. An assignment list will be clearly displayed in the classroom as well as on Infinite Campus and updated as the quarter goes on. Specific information about each assignment for my class will be uploaded to Google Classroom as they are assigned. Please refer to this Google Sites page if you have questions regarding specific assignments. Always feel free to contact me through email or at the school when needed.

I expect all homework to be electronically turned in at the beginning of each class period. If a student submits any late classwork (unless it is due to an excused absence), the highest received score will be 70% credit if completed accurately. Late academic assignments (essays/projects) will be similarly marked down. Absent work (excused absences) is accepted for full credit within one week from the date of absence.

Assessment

Students will be assessed based on classwork, homework, projects, tests, quizzes, reading logs (**read a minimum of 20 minutes per night during the week**), Accelerated Reader points, and district assessments. All work will be calculated as percentages. Grading is as follows:

- A: 100% - 90%
- B: 89% - 80%
- C: 79% - 70%
- D: 69% - 60%
- F: 59% - 0%

Academic Grades: Tests, Quizzes, Writing Assignments, Projects, and AR Tests (1 AR Test per Month & 20 Points per Quarter)

Effort Grades: Classwork & Homework

Citizenship Grades: Citizenship grades will be determined using Valley Center Middle School's citizenship rubric. Factors considered in citizenship grades include, but are not limited to: arriving to class on time, coming prepared for class, participating in class, following classroom rules, and respecting the learning environment for all.

Materials

I request that your student comes to school prepared and ready to learn. The following list details needed/recommended supplies:

- **Charged** District Assigned iPad
- Independent Reading Book
- Stylus (if desired)
- Pencils with erasers
- Index Cards (3x5)
- Colored pens (Blue, Red, Green, and Black)
- Spiral Notebook (I can provide if necessary)

Contact Information

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I am generally good about replying to parent emails and welcome this type of communication. My contact information is listed below:

Jeffrey Yarush

yarush.jef@gmail.com

(760) 751-4295

Your support and involvement are crucial to your student's success. By making your student's education a priority at home, you can help your child be successful at school. Please discuss the information in this letter with your child. By signing the form on the following page, you and your student acknowledge that you understand the outlined policies and procedures. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to meeting you at Back to School Night on Thursday, August 29th.

Thank you,

Mr. Jeffrey Yarush

MOVIE PERMISSION SLIP

Language Arts 2024-2025

Dear Parent/s or Guardian,

Throughout the year I would like to show either cultural or inspirational films on perseverance in our Language Arts class this year as well as historical videos. Please fill out this permission slip and have your student return to me on **September 6th or at Back to School Night**. If you do not want your student to watch these films, they will be given an alternative assignment to work on in the library and this will not negatively affect their grade in any way.

Este Permiso es para ver ciertas peliculas en la clase que de muestran como si se puede, y como seguir adelante. Favor de macar y firmar si usted NO deja que sus hijo/a vea estas peliculas.

In addition to the textbook aligned video presentations and District provided media, excerpts from the following movies **may** be shown. If your student is **NOT** permitted to watch or participate, please indicate by checking the line next to the title.

List of Movies & Rating

I will not allow my child to watch McFarland USA (PG)

I will not allow my child to watch Coco (PG)

I will not allow my child to watch Hidden Figures (PG)

I will not allow my child to watch A Million Miles Away (PG)

I will not allow my child to watch America: Story of Us

I will not allow my child to watch The Outsiders (PG)

I permit my child _____ to watch all films to deepen instruction and interpretation in class.

Below is an agreement sheet to be completed by all parent/s or guardian

Muchas Gracias por todo su apoyo!

Thank you very much,

Mr. Yarush

Student Name _____ **Period** _____

Parent/ Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____