

8th Grade Language Arts
2023-2024 School Year

Mr. Jake Powell
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Dear Students & Parents:

My name is Mr. Jake Powell and I have the pleasure and privilege of teaching 8th grade Language Arts at Hall Middle School this year. I am very excited to be starting my 25th year as an educator. I have taught Social Studies and Language Arts at both the middle school and high school levels in the past. Our linguistic journey starts with an investigation into each individual's identities and the narratives of others and progresses through a variety of fiction and non-fiction literary topics and styles of writing.

I **know** that this will be a successful and enjoyable school year for all my students. I will be going over this syllabus in class; however, I want to make sure that parents are aware of my expectations, curriculum goals, etc. I strongly believe that in order for my students to be successful, I must develop and maintain a relationship with their parents. To that end, I encourage you to contact me with any questions and/or concerns at jpowell@lcmschools.org. Email is my preferred method of communication, as I check my email frequently throughout each day.

My Expectations for Student Work, Behavior, and Participation:

My number one expectation for my classroom is respect. Students **MUST** be respectful of me, the classroom environment, and most importantly, of each other. I will not tolerate "put-downs" of any kind. This classroom is to be a safe place for all students. I expect my students to come to class prepared to learn and I expect them to work to the best of their ability. I have high expectations for my students and I will do everything I can to help them succeed. My class will be challenging, but it will be fun as well. Finally, I expect every student to participate.

NO Online GAMES IN CLASS!

In the event of a behavior problem...

...there will be consequences. I will be following the Hall Middle School [Top Student Expectations](https://goo.gl/O1mfwX) (goo.gl/O1mfwX) and [Progressive Discipline Chart](https://goo.gl/4uUG13) (goo.gl/4uUG13). Please take a few moments to familiarize yourself with both documents.

Required Materials:

_____ A spiral notebook for warm-up exercises and class notes.
_____ Pen & Pencil (EVERYDAY!)
_____ Enthusiasm

Please note: **I never assign homework that is due the next day. Most work done at home will be for longer-term assignments/projects and my students will ALWAYS have multiple days of advance notice before any assignment is due. In addition, notes from parents will always be accepted with no questions asked.** I will give one extra day for every day that a student is absent. (excused absences only) I am more than happy to meet with students one-on-one if they are having trouble completing or understanding an assignment.

8th Grade Language Arts Overview

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| Me, Myself, and I Reading of other narratives/cultures Investigation into personal identity/history Narrative writing A Perfect World Reading of dystopian novels Literary essay writing What in the World Reading of non-fiction articles Expository writing through investigative journalism | What rights should we have? Reading of banned or challenged books Opinion/argumentative essay Speech/Presentation of banned/challenged book Heroes/Sheroes Reading of historical fiction/memoir Scrapbook narrative of character and their life Justice in America Reading of books about justice in America Compare and Contrast Essay between students/characters ELA/SS Joint Social Justice Project! |
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Most assignments will assess a language arts skill as well as a Habit of Learning. This trimester I will be assessing these language arts skills:

Reading Skills:

- Inferring about character
- Developing Interpretations: Morals, Lessons, and Themes
- Supporting Claims with Reasons and Evidence

Writing Skills:

- Structure, Development, and Conventions for Narrative Writing
- Structure, Development, and Conventions for Opinion/Argument Writing

In addition, I will be assessing the following Habits of Learning Skills this trimester.

- Initiative & Ownership of Learning
- Adaptability.

For some assignments you will see multiple skills assessed. We are working toward proficiency by year's end. In addition, if an assignment is not turned in or not done fully, this will be reflected under "Initiative & Ownership of Learning."

Under each assignment there will be a link to the rubric(s) used for that assignment. I will also include a comment when necessary to explain a student's performance further.

Topic: Powell Mr. Jake's Personal Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/9346156778?pwd=OFpDY1AvSWsxaVN4K0IrSIFHQm44dz09>

Meeting ID: 934 615 6778

Passcode: door303