

Welcome to 8th Grade English Language Arts!

Teacher: Ms. Tracy L. Bouslog ("Bous" sounds like house; "log" sounds like log:)

Team 8 Blue

Contact Information: Room 3501; **Phone number:** 314-415-5416

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Web Site: Search "Bouslog" at West Middle Staff Directory for link

Units of Study

Unit 1: Readerly and Writerly Life (Memoir/Narrative Reading and Writing)

Unit 2: Reading Literary Nonfiction and Writing Investigative Journalism (Narrative+Informative)

Unit 3: Reading Dystopian Works and Writing Comparison Essays (Informative)

Unit 4: Analyzing Arguments and Writing Position Papers

Unit 5: Reading *Twelve Angry Men* and Argumentative Cold Writes

Unit 6: Reading the Classics

Goals and Activities

- Read independently in class and at home (30-minutes of reading at home).
- Keep Writer's and a Reader's Notebooks.
- Read independently and reflect upon your reading.
- Read and discuss novels, plays, poetry, short stories, and nonfiction articles/essays as a class.
- Create presentations for literary works/topics of your choice.
- Write proficient multi-paragraph essays and short in-class writes.
- Peer respond and edit each other's writing.
- Speak and listen in small and whole-class groups for creative and analytical reading and writing assignments.
- Engage in language activities to improve your writing and grammar skills.

Class Supplies

1. Pens and pencils
2. Pronged Folders (Teacher will provide.)
3. Highlighters
4. Loose leaf paper
5. Independent reading novel of your choice
6. Chromebook and charger

Class Procedures:

- Bring **ALL SUPPLIES** with you to class every day.
- Grab your folders on your way in to class.
- Promptly take your seat, write down your homework in your planner, and get started on the directions in the "Do Now" **before** the bell rings.
- If you need to leave the classroom or get out of your seat, please wait until independent or group work time.
- You must have the hallway pass signed by the teacher to leave the classroom.
- Before leaving the classroom for any reason, sign the in/out form.
- Be in class and **in your seat on time** to avoid tardies—
 - o 1st tardy—warning
 - o 2nd tardy—parent contact
 - o 3rd tardy—detention and parent contact
 - o 4th tardy—administrative referral
- Cell phones should remain in locker.

- Chromebooks should remain off until instructed by teacher.
- Follow the Digital Pledge "I will" statements in the West Middle Student Handbook.

Grading

You will not receive number grades on assignments. Instead your work will be graded as Advanced, Proficient, Developing, or Beginning. In Infinite Campus, these categories will automatically be associated with the following number grades as to create your total score at each grading period:

Advanced—100% Proficient—90% Developing—75% Beginning—60%

The gradebook will be divided into for ELA categories—Reading, Writing, and Language. Speaking and Listening will be added as assignments in these three categories as they are incorporated into the units. Within these categories, grades will be posted for independent work/products. These scores will help to inform the "current status" grade, used to determine your grade average. You will be expected to revise or redo assignments in which you score below proficient.

Citizenship

Outstanding	Satisfactory	Improvement Needed	Unsatisfactory
I lead others in my community, helping them demonstrate the West Middle Core Values.	I affect my community in a positive way and maintain good citizenship by demonstrating the West Middle Core Values (<u>P</u> erseverance, <u>R</u> esponsibility, <u>I</u> ntegrity, <u>C</u> ooperation, and <u>E</u> mpathy).	I could improve on <u>one</u> West Middle Core Value in order to avoid distracting from my own learning.	I could improve on <u>two or more</u> West Middle Core Values in order to avoid distracting from my peers' learning.

If You Are Absent

It is your responsibility to make sure you are always caught up in class. If you are absent, you have the number of days you were out plus one to turn in any missing work. You can find out what we did on the day you were absent in a number of places:

1. **TEAM HOMEWORK CALENDAR**—You can find a Google Calendar on the Team 8-Blue website that has homework listed from all of your core classes.
2. **MS. BOUSLOG'S WEBSITE OR EMAIL MS. BOUSLOG**—On my website, you will find an ELA Homework Reminders page. You will also find various resources and contact information. Please feel free to contact me through email about missed lessons and assignments as well.
3. **IN CLASS**—You can find the work you missed in the "Handouts" Crate. You can also ask me or your table teammates to explain missed assignments and lessons.

****Please note:** If we have a planned performance event (i.e. test, quiz, project due, paper due, etc.) the day you miss class, you **will** be expected to make it up or turn the project in the day you return.

Planned Absences

If you know you are going to be absent in advance, please let me know ahead of time so that I can put together your make-up work packet.

If You Need Extra Help

I am always here for extra help if it's needed! Please see me to set up an appointment before school, during lunch, or after school. You may also email me questions or simply contact a friend or "homework buddy" from class to see if they can help. Above all, make sure you are "respecting yourself" enough to get some extra help if you need it.

Other Tips for Teens

- Please know you are **welcome** to talk to me for help anytime. I enjoy talking to students.
- If you would like to drop me a note instead, write a letter and place it in the "Notes to Mrs. B" basket" on my desk. I will respond to you with a letter as well.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, feel free to contact me by phone (314)-415-5416 or e-mail (tbouslog@parkwayschools.net).

Thank you, all! Let's have a great year!! 😊