



# 8th English Language Arts

## Course Description

*Eighth grade ELA involves the study of literary elements through the use of novels and short stories. Our student incorporates the use of reading strategies and offers opportunity for discussion and interpretation. Study of the English language consists of using written, oral, and visual interpretation. The students will study grammar, writing, curriculum-based vocabulary and have several speaking opportunities throughout the year. An emphasis of eighth grade writing is to develop narrative, argument, and research writing skills.*

## Instructors

Mrs. Cathy Axen Classroom #30 <a href="mailto:Cathy.Britts-Axen@central301.net">Cathy.Britts-Axen@central301.net</a> 847-464-6000	Ms. Karla Baumrucker Classroom #50 <a href="mailto:Karla.Baumrucker@central301.net">Karla.Baumrucker@central301.net</a> 847-464-6000
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Mrs. Kathy McCoy Classroom #52 <a href="mailto:Kathy.McCoy@central301.net">Kathy.McCoy@central301.net</a> 847-464-6000	Mrs. Carrie Zierk Classroom #56 <a href="mailto:Carrie.Zierk@central301.net">Carrie.Zierk@central301.net</a> 847-464-6000

## Course Materials Required

- *Student Chromebook*
- *Required Unit Text(s)*
- *Access to student Canvas account*



# 8th English Language Arts

## Learning Activities

*Eighth grade ELA consists of four units. Below are the essential questions for each unit:*

**Unit 1: Rules & Regulation** - *How do the rules imposed by authority affect society?*

**Unit 2: Identity** - *In a world where we are bombarded with ideas and images of “what we should be,” how does one form an identity that remains true and authentic for her/himself?*

**Unit 3: Mysterious Mysteries** - *How does an author use elements of a mystery to hook and hold their readers?*

**Unit 4: Courage Under Fire** - *How can reading about the courage of real or imagined people inform our understanding of determined literary characters?*

## Learning Outcomes

*Students will focus on the 8th grade English Language Arts Common Core Standards*

<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/> .

## Course Outline

Unit	Approximate Dates	Topics	Student Activities <i>examples are given, but are not limited to</i>
<i>Rules &amp; Regulation</i>	<i>Quarter 1</i>	<i>Characterization, Film Analysis- director’s choice, Point of View, Argument writing, Evaluating Presentation of Media</i>	<i>Reading material: The Giver, “Harrison Bergeron”, “The Lottery” &amp; various connecting nonfiction texts, research paper, discussions, study guides, &amp; comprehension checks</i>
<i>Identity</i>	<i>Quarter 2</i>	<i>Plot, narrative writing, film analysis, figurative language, verb tenses, character development, author’s choice</i>	<i>Reading material: The Outsiders, “Brothers” &amp; various connecting nonfiction texts, discussions, study guides, short research assignments, comprehension checks.</i>



## 8th English Language Arts

<i>Mysterious Mysteries</i>	<i>Quarter 3</i>	<i>Plot- elements of a mystery, author’s craft, writing with textual support, vocabulary, presentations with visual displays</i>	<i>Reading material: Murder on the Orient Express, “Monk”, “Psych”, “The Most Dangerous Game”, “The Monkey’s Paw” &amp; various connecting non-fiction texts, discussions, short research assignments, study guides, and comprehension checks.</i>
<i>Courage Under Fire</i>	<i>Quarter 4</i>	<i>Text to world connections, finding main idea with support details, author’s craft, making inferences</i>	<i>Reading material: Night, various connecting non-fiction text, poetry, and artwork, discussions, short research assignments, study guides, and comprehension checks.</i>

### Major Course Assignments/Assessments

#### Quarter 1

- *Me Speech and Presentation*
- *Argument research paper*
- *Rules and Regulations (pre & post assessments)*

#### Quarter 2

- *Narrative essay*
- *Research project- 1960’s topics*
- *Identity (pre & post assessments)*

#### Quarter 3

- *Lindbergh baby research project and presentation*
- *Mysterious Mysteries (pre & post assessments)*
- *Student Created Films*

#### Quarter 4

- *Song Analysis essay*
- *Research project- student selected topics about Holocaust*
- *Courage Under Fire (pre & post assessments)*



# 8th English Language Arts

## Grading Procedures:

- *ELA is graded on a Point system and students will typically be presented with a rubric to communicate expectations.*

## Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Range
A	100-90
B	89.99-80
C	79.99-70
D	69.99-60
F	59.99-below

## Late Work Policies:

### Daily Work:

- *Daily assignments must be turned in on due date*
- *Late assignments will not be accepted*
- *Some teachers may issue detentions for missing work*
- *Missing and late assignments will affect eligibility athletics and extracurricular activities*

### Projects / Large Assignments:

- *Projects / large assignments must be turned in on due date*
- *Late projects / large assignments will be accepted on the following scale:*
  - *One day late = 20% off final grade*
  - *Additional 10% off of final grade each additional day late*



## 8th English Language Arts

### **Absences/Make-up Work:**

*Students who are absent from school will be allowed to make up work for equivalent academic credit. The time allowed to makeup work will generally be one school day for every school day missed, starting with the first day the student returns to school. In extenuating circumstances a student may ask his/her teacher for additional time to make up work. It is the responsibility of the student (and his/her parent/guardian), not the teachers, to get the assignments, complete them, and turn them in, and to arrange a time with the teacher to make up any missed quizzes or tests. Incomplete work or failure to do the work may result in a lowering of grades.*

### Timeframe for makeup work:

*Students have the same number of days as absent to make-up work.*

### Procedure to follow to receive and submit makeup work:

*Students will be emailed the day they are absent. Due dates for late/missing work will be communicated in the email. If by chance you do not receive an email, please extend an email to your teacher inquiring about the day's activities.*

### **Technology Policy**

*The District's electronic networks, including the Internet, are part of the District's instructional program and serve to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. Use of all electronic devices allowed as part of the District's Bring Your Own Device ("BYOD") program and the District issued Chromebook must be consistent with District policies and procedures. Such electronic devices may be used during instructional time only for educational purposes as approved by the Administration or teacher. Personal devices may be used by students during non-instructional time, such as during passing periods, and before or after school. Students may not place or receive phone calls during school day hours (8:00am to 2:45pm). Use is a privilege, not a right. Students and staff members have no expectation of privacy in any material that is stored, transmitted, accessed via the District's electronic networks. The District's rules for behavior and communications apply when using the electronic networks. Refer to the Chromebook Handbook issued by the district.*



## 8th English Language Arts

### ELA classroom technology policy:

*The use of cellphones or other personal devices while in the ELA classroom is strictly prohibited without teacher permission. The CMS cellphone misuse policy will be followed.*

### **Academic Integrity:**

*Students engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, altering report cards, and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores will be held to the standards of the 17-18 CMS Plagiarism Policy.*

### **Plagiarism/Cheating**

*Using someone else's ideas, phrasing or words and representing those as your own, either on purpose or through carelessness, is plagiarism. This is the same as "copying" the ideas of someone else. This includes, but is not limited to: copying from the Internet, copying from a reference source, copying from a friend, etc. Plagiarism can encompass an entire paper, a paragraph, a sentence, or even just one word. Any work that is turned in and is found to have been plagiarized will be disciplined as follows:*

- *All daily work, classwork, homework, and quizzes will result in a zero*
- *For large/unit assessments and projects:*
- *1st offense-Conference with the teacher with the option to redo the project/assessment for 50% off*
- *2nd offense- Conference with the teacher, parental contact, and a zero on the project/assessment*

*All subsequent offenses will result in a mandatory conference with the student, teacher, principal or student service coordinator. Consequences will be handled on a case by case basis.*



## 8th English Language Arts

### Resources:

- **Canvas**

*Canvas is our online management system. It will be used to post daily assignments and readings (including PDF versions of each novel read during the year). Canvas will also allow students to submit their completed work for feedback. All work is time stamped at submission and it is the student's responsibility to make sure they submit the correct assignment on time. Please note that while much of the grading will be completed on Canvas, the Canvas gradebook is not an accurate representation of students' grades.*
- **Skyward**

*Skyward is the official gradebook for ELA and will contain students' most accurate grade. Homework will be posted to the gradebook calendar, which can be accessed by students and parents.*
- **Turnitin.com**

*Turnitin.com is an online resource used to improve student writing and empower original thinking. It will be used in ELA this year for all major writing assignments as a way to provide detailed feedback on writing assignments and check for authenticity of work.*
- **Copies of Novels**

*Students will be provided novels to share in class. In previous years, many students have found it beneficial to purchase their own copy of these texts in order to practice their annotations directly in the text. The novels we will be reading (in order) are: *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton, *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie, and *Night* by Elie Wiesel.*