**8th grade English Syllabus 2024-25**

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**Course Summary:**  This class is designed to provide students with skills that will ensure their readiness for high school, and ultimately, colleges and careers. It is a Montana state standards-aligned curriculum that uses classics, modern literature, multimedia, and non-fiction to help students with analytical thinking, academic literacy, grammar, and vocabulary. Students will participate and demonstrate proficiency in various research projects and public speaking assignments while also utilizing technology.

**Resources / Texts:** www.commonlit.org; www.noredink.com; TEAMS; turnitin.com; Google Classroom; various texts delivered digitally and hard copy

**Materials:** loose leaf paper, blue or black pens, 1 single-subject spiral notebook, folder for organizing English, composition book

**How will students be assessed?**

A student’s learning is assessed using a variety of formative and summative assessments including traditional tests, projects, written papers, and oral assessments. These assessments will comprise 60% of the semester’s grade and will be listed in **Power School as ASSESSMENTS (ASMNT).** Below you will see the scale for these assessments.

**All assessments will be graded on a 4 point scale and feedback/rubrics will be attached. If a student scores below standard they will have an opportunity to reassess (within a given time frame).**

4 – Exemplary 10/10

  3 – Meets Standard 8.5/10

2 – Progressing 7.5/10

1 – Below Standard 6.5/10

0 – Incomplete 0/10

**What essential skills will students learn and be assessed on?**

* Students will be able to write effective arguments supported with evidence.
* Students will be able to write effective informative essays using supporting evidence.
* Students will be able to use strong textual evidence to support inferences.
* Students will be able to determine and analyze the theme/central idea of a text.
* Students will be able to analyze the impact and meaning of words/phrases in a text and the effect on the meaning of the text as a whole.
* Students will be able to determine an author’s point of view/position and analyze its effectiveness.
* Students will be able to analyze the structure of a text and its effect on the meaning.
* Students will be able to use Greek and Latin roots to help determine meaning of vocabulary.
* Students will develop a greater understanding of the English language grammar and syntax through use of noredink.com

**What can students do to raise their grade?**

The goal in this class is to ensure that students master the essential standards for the class, so any effort made to master the goal can result in a higher score. **The student should meet with the teacher to arrange for reassessment.  Only items in the ASMNT or Quiz category can be reassessed.** When reassessing an item from the ASMNT category, and the student demonstrates a higher level of mastery on the reassessment, the newer score will replace the older score. Again, the focus is to improve the student’s mastery of the material**.** When reassessing an item from the Quiz category, if the student demonstrates a higher level of mastery on the reassessment, the two scores will be averaged.

* ***Reassessments may be done within a week of the grade being posted to Powerschool.***
* ***Reassessments must be pre-arranged with Ms. Cohn and completed in my classroom.***

**What are the gradebook categories?**

Classwork (activities, practice, preparation assignments, etc)                                   25%

Quizzes (weekly Greek/Latin vocabulary, content multiple choice reading checks) 15%

Assessments (measure of student proficiency on a particular standard) 60%

**STUDENT HINTS FOR SUCCESS!**

* Check Powerschool, TEAMS, and the whiteboard in my room every day, especially if you are absent.
* Attendance, participation, being on time, coming to class prepared and being ready to learn are essential for a great experience in this class.
* If you are gone, **you are responsible for getting missed assignments and notes**. You have until the Friday following your absence (or a time agreed upon with the teacher) to turn in work that was assigned during your absence. If you were present when the assignment was given, but it was due while you were absent, that assignment is due the day of your return. (Example: If you are absent on a Friday, you will be expected to take the vocabulary quiz on the day you return)
* Reassess!!!  Remember, you can show me that you have learned from your mistakes. Take advantage of this opportunity, meet with me, and reassess on items in the ASMNT or QUIZ categories. You will be required to read your feedback/rubric on the original and use that information to make necessary improvements to your work.

**Classroom Rules:**

1. Be responsible for yourself, respect others, and do your best!
2. Be on time and bring materials to class every day: something to write with, paper and your composition book.
3. **No phones, no headphones, and no hoods in the classroom.**
4. Misuse of computers will have natural consequences; stay on task.
5. I have NO TOLERANCE for harassment. Be nice/respectful toward one another and willing to listen to other viewpoints.
6. I have NO TOLERANCE for plagiarism.   Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional presentation of someone else’s ideas or writing/work as your own, regardless of length or importance of assignment. The first offense is a ZERO on the assignment, subsequent offenses will result in an office referral.
   * **The use of artificial intelligence (AI) generated writing is plagiarism. It is not your own writing. It will have the exact same consequences as plagiarism when detected.**
   * **Giving your work to another student to copy, or enabling plagiarism, will have the same consequence.**
   * **Again, this applies to all work in this course.  Your job is to THINK for yourself; LEARN for yourself; CONVEY that knowledge in your own words.**

Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_