

# 8<sup>th</sup> grade English Syllabus 2025-26

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**Course Summary:** This course is designed to provide students with learning tasks and opportunities to develop language and literacy skills that will prepare them for high school, and ultimately, college and career readiness through judicious and intentional use of Montana state standards-aligned curriculum steeped in the classics, modern literature, multimedia, and non-fiction genres. Refinement of analytical thinking, academic literacy, grammar, and vocabulary will be emphasized as well as collaborative learning and development of communication skills. Students will be expected to participate and demonstrate proficiency in multiple research projects and public speaking assignments which utilize technology.

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

**Materials:** loose leaf paper, blue or black pens, highlighters, post-it notes, 1 single-subject spiral notebook

## 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 70% 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 submitted digitally and will have time constraints and feedback/rubrics attached. Students will always have an opportunity to reassess should they score below standard.**

Assessments Grade Scale			What you'll see in the gradebook under ASMNT category:
4	Distinguished	=	A (10/10)
3	Meets standard	=	B (8.5/10)
2	Progressing	=	C (7.5/10)
1	Below standard	=	D (6.5/10)
0	No Evidence	=	F (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 write effective narratives
- 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 speak in a public setting, both large and small groups to present information, opinion, and/or contribute to discussion.
- Students will develop a greater understanding of the English language grammar and syntax through use of [noredink.com](http://noredink.com)

## What can students do to raise their grade in a standards-based class?

The goal in a standards-based class is to ensure that students master the essential standards for the class, so any efforts to raise a student's grade will have the same goal. **The student should meet with the teacher to arrange for reassessment. Only items in the ASMNT category can be reassessed.** If the student demonstrates a higher level of mastery on the reassessment, then the newer score will replace the older score. Again, the focus is to improve the student's mastery of the material; **extra credit points are not used in standards-based classes.**

- *Reassessments may be done within a week of the grade being posted to Powerschool.*
- *Reassessments must be pre-arranged with Ms. Krick and completed in my classroom during advisor or lunch. I will not accept a reassessment without prior knowledge/arrangements.*
- *Additional practice / lessons will likely be required prior to reassessment to ensure success.*

### What are the gradebook categories?

Classwork (activities, practice, preparation assignments, etc)	15%
Quizzes: weekly Greek/Latin vocabulary, objective content multiple choice reading checks	15%
Assessments (measure of student proficiency on any particular standard)	70%

### 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 to turn in work for full credit.
- Reassess!!! Remember, you have the ability to show me that you have learned from your mistakes. Take advantage of this opportunity, meet with me, and reassess on items in the ASMNT category. You will be required to read your feedback/rubric on the original, meet with me for reteach, and only then be permitted to **rewrite during lunch or advisor within ONE week of the original grade posting to Powerschool.**

### Classroom Rules:

1. Be responsible for yourself, respect others, and do your best!
2. Be on time and bring materials to class every day: highlighters, post-it notes, something to write with, paper.
3. **No phones, no headphones, no hoods, no hats in the classroom.**
4. Misuse of computers will have natural consequences; stay on task.
5. No food (that includes candy) or beverages other than water, should be brought into the classroom.
6. I have ZERO TOLERANCE for harassment. Be nice/respectful toward one another and open to other viewpoints.
7. I have a ZERO TOLERANCE policy 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.**
  - **All assessments will be submitted digitally and checked to help you avoid unintentional or intentional plagiarism.**
8. There is NO EXTRA CREDIT in a standards based classroom – only reassessment (time limitations)

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

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