

**Ms. Dixon's 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Syllabus**

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“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”  
- Nelson Mandela

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Welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts! I have a rigorous, yet exciting plan for this year's curriculum, and we will work as a team to accomplish each task and expand our knowledge. Cooperation and respect are central to a successful year. I am here to facilitate knowledge and serve as your mentor; in exchange, I request your acknowledgement of and dedication to the rules as well as your commitment and willingness to learn and work with your peers in proactive manner. When we work and learn together, we can accomplish anything! With that being said, let's take a closer look at our class procedures, routines, and rules.

**Class Rules:**

1. Honor the “Golden Rule” at all times. (*Treat others the way in which you wish to be treated.*)
2. Respect each other and school property.
3. Raise your hand.
4. Listen to others.
5. Work as a team!
6. In anything you do, apply your best effort!

**Consequences**

1. Verbal and/or non-verbal intervention
2. Buddy System Student Reflection (You will be sent to another classroom to complete a written explanation for your misconduct.)
3. Individual conference with the student(s)
4. Parental and/or administrative contact

**Supplies:**

- 3 ring notebook (2 inches or more)
- Dividers
- Loose leaf paper
- Pencil/pen (blue or black ink only)
- Composition book
- Highlighters

**Procedures:**

- When entering the classroom, walk quietly to your assigned seat immediately.

- Come to class prepared! Bring all materials including your textbook(s), writing utensil, notebook, and composition book.
- Read the daily lesson plan for initial activity prompts (these will be posted on the Promethean Board), and begin your assignment immediately according to the instructions provided.
- When finished with your assignment(s), place your work in the designated work bin for your class and wait quietly until others have finished.
- Always raise your hand to speak and listen to others. **Disrespect will not be tolerated!**
- Upon the bell signal, wait for my dismissal. **The bell does not dismiss you; I do.** Line up quietly and orderly before entering your next classroom.

### **Daily Routines:**

- The daily objectives and learning targets will be displayed on the chalk board for each learning segment. Check the board each day for our “To Do List.”
- **Writing to Win** and **Intervention** activities will consume 30 minutes of instructional time each day. These activities will alternate among days of the week.
  - **Writing to Win:** Tuesday & Thursday
  - **Intervention:** Monday, Wednesday, & Friday
- Work quietly and in a timely manner to ensure maximum instructional time. In-class assignments will be collected at the end of class, complete or incomplete!

### **Late Work Policy:**

I will accept late work for a two-day maximum. Ten points will be deducted automatically for each day. After the second day, you will receive a zero/incomplete for the missed assignment.

### **Absent Work Policy:**

Missing assignments can be detrimental to your understanding of learning standards and your grade. If you are absent, work from the previous day will be in the “What You Missed” folder located on the back bookshelf. You are responsible for requesting and completing these assignments. You will have one day to finish the assignment(s) and return them to me immediately.

### **Grading:**

- Daily Work—10%
- Homework/Classwork—15%
- Projects—30%
- Tests—25%
- Quizzes—20%

Each aspect of your work contributes to your final grade. Daily work grades will be based on willingness to participate and complete assignments as well as your contribution to class discussions. Projects and tests are the two most critical components of your grade. Each nine-week period will consist of **at least one** project and test. Assignment instructions and preparation will be provided for you as the semester ensues. Also expect quizzes throughout the semester, as some will be unannounced.