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**Student name (print)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Orange– Return signed**

**Yellow Copy – Keep**

**8th grade English Language Arts**

**Brian Baldowski, Ed.S.**

**Syllabus 2024-2025**

**Course Description and Objectives**

Eighth Grade Language Arts focuses on a study of literary genres and informational texts to help develop initial understanding of both the structure and the meaning of a literary work. Students will become well acquainted with the elements of fiction, gerunds, participles and verb moods. Students will also demonstrate competency in a variety of writing genres: argumentative, informational/expository, and narrative.

**Textbook**

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) *Into Literature Grade 8*

**Unit/Concept Names Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE)**

Unit 1 Development of Character and Ideas Unit 4 Point of View

Unit 2 Central Ideas Unit 5 Summarizing Text

Unit 3 Text Structure Unit 6 Text Analysis

**Absences**

Students should provide either a parent note or doctor’s excuse to the homeroom teacher for absences. Absent students are expected to make up all work. Please see Mr. Baldowski’s website / Canvas for missed work.

**Classroom Procedures & Expectations**

The overarching expectation in this class is RESPECT: respect for yourself, respect for other students, respect for the teacher/or any individual in authority, and respect for any guests that may enter our class. Students should enter the classroom and begin work immediately on the posted bellringer for the day. Students should not have another teacher’s work or other subject’s work out on their desk. Student’s should do ELA work only.

1. Always Try YOUR BEST!!!
2. Have the “I can do it” attitude! Stick to it and don’t give up!
3. Remain SEATED in your assigned seat and PREPARED at all times.
4. Bring ALL materials to class DAILY.
5. Every student is responsible for helping to maintain a clean, safe learning environment. Your area must remain CLEAN at all times. The floor should be clear of trash, paper, and personal belongings.

**Late Work**

Students who submit online work after it is put in the gradebook MUST EMAIL Mr. Baldowski with a description of which assignment is completed in the “subject” line or it WILL NOT be entered in the gradebook.

**Evaluation (Schoolwide Grading Policy)**

* Minor Grades 60% (Quizzes, Class work, Graded Writing Assignments, Group Work, etc)
* Major Grades 40% (Unit & Chapter Test, Projects, Research papers,)

**Leaving the classroom** – ONLY on rare occasion should a student leave the classroom. Personal business, work for other teachers, athletic and extracurricular forms, retrieving lost belongings should be done outside of class time. Parents will be contacted for students who repeatedly disrupt or interrupt the class to ask to leave for various reasons.

**Cell Phones**

Cell phones are not permitted in class, per school policy, and should not be seen nor heard. Students should turn cell phones off and place them in their bookbags.

**Discipline**

Disruptive students will be disciplined according to the progressive discipline plan. Disruptive and inappropriate behaviors will be documented and parents contacted. Repeated minor infractions will result in disciplinary action. As a student you must conduct yourself in a way that contributes to a SAFE, POSITIVE learning environment for EVERYONE. **Common disruptive and inappropriate behaviors include – inappropriate cell phone / earbud / headphone / laptop use, bullying or denigrating other students, using profanities or other inappropriate language, horseplay, talking out of turn or interrupting the teacher and other students, eating in class, out of assigned seat without permission, working on another teacher’s homework/assignments and others**. These behaviors DO NOT contribute to a positive learning environment and must be curtailed. **Students who exhibit model behavior will be verbally acknowledged and occasionally rewarded.**

**Homeroom 8:45AM-9:15AM / Intervention 10:15AM-11:00AM**

Students are expected to follow and participate in the Intervention schedule provided by the Tutt Middle School Instructional Specialist. These activities include ST Math (app on Launchpad), EverFi (app on Launchpad), Flocabulary Social/Emotional Learning (SEL), Digital Citizenship, Writing Prompts, Word Studies and others.



**Course Materials**

\* One 1.5/2 inch 3-ring binder \* 1 Package of Dividers (3 Total)

\* Pencils \* Loose Leaf Paper

\* Headphones / plugin earbuds (2 pair) \* Highlighters

**My contact information:**

Email: **baldobr@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us**

\*\*\* KEEP THIS SYLLABUS IN YOUR FOLDER AT ALL TIMES\*\*\*

I have read this syllabus and understand all of the classroom procedures for 8th Grade ELA and will

abide by / support each. Please sign and date below.

Student’s Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_