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

 **8th grade English Language Arts**

 Dr. Gomez

 **Dear Student,**

 Welcome to English language arts and literature class with Dr. Gomez! I am pleased to be one of the teachers here at Tutt Ms, and I feel very fortunate that each and every one of you is in my class this year. Together we will explore the Common Core standards for 8th grade language arts.

**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 Dr. Gomez website / Canvas for missed work. It is students’ responsibility to get missing work from me the day they come back to school. Student has 72 hours from when they get the missing work to turn it back in for full credit. After 72 hours work will not be accepted unless prior arrangements where made.

**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.

**I PROMISE TO:**

**SHOW UP ON TIME FOR CLASS.** Excessive tardiness will not be tolerated. If I show up significantly late, I will provide a late pass showing where I was and the reason for the tardy.

**BE PREPARED FOR CLASS.** I will bring a pencil and my notebook every day!!

**TAKE CARE OF THE CLASSROOM.** I will not damage any equipment in class. If I do, I know that I will be held accountable and may have to pay for the damage, including but not limited to: books, desks, chairs, tables, computers, etc. I will not vandalize classroom furniture, equipment, or litter the floor.

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. Backpacks are to be placed in the back of the room at all times

**USE APPROPRIATE CLASSROOM LANGUAGE:** Cursing and bullying will not be tolerated. Cursing and bullying may lead to classroom dismissal and a write-up – or harsher consequences as determined by Administration.

No food, drinks, or gum are allowed in class, including water. Exceptions will only be made for students with documented medical needs and a pass from the school nurse.

**Cell-Phones**

Cell phones must remain off and out of sight during class, in accordance with school policy. Unauthorized use will result in progressive consequences, including parent contact and possible confiscation.

- First offense will receive an explicit verbal warning.

- Further offense will receive a parent phone call.

- Repeated offenses will result in phone confiscation. In this case, a parent will need to request the phone be returned in person.

I WILL TRY MY BEST IN CLASS! I know that Dr. Gomez never “gives” grades. I earn my grade in this class. I will try my best to complete assignments, pay attention, take notes as needed and follow through when given opportunity to do so.

**Late Work**

Students who submit late work after it is put in the gradebook MUST EMAIL Dr. Gomez with the subject “Late Work” and a description of which assignment is completed or it WILL NOT be entered in the gradebook.

**Academic Grading Scale**

A (90-100) B (80-89) C (75-79) D (70-74) F (below 70)

- Parents are encouraged to monitor their child’s grades using the district Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

- Please contact the front office at 706-737-7288 for information to gain access to Infinite Campus.

**Academic Dishonesty**

The Student Code of Conduct, Rule 1(A)(t), states that no student shall cheat, alter records, plagiarize, receive unauthorized assistance or assist another in any type of academic dishonesty. The determination that a student has engaged in academic dishonesty will be based on the judgment of the classroom teacher and a supervising administrator, taking into consideration any written materials, observation, or information from witnesses. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, the task may be entered as “incomplete” and the student required to redo the assignment or retake the assessment

**Richmond County Board of Education Grading Policy**

- Minor Grades 60%

o Minimum number of minor grades per 6-week progress report period = 5

- Major Grades 40%

o Minimum number of major grades per 6-week progress report period = 2

**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,)

Missed Assignments: Contact Dr. Gomez to check about missed assignments. Students are responsible for completing on time assignments, made during their absence. Assignments handed in late will be penalized 10% of the total point value for each class day late.

**Assignment Policy**

All assignments are due on the date/time specified. Make-up work will not be available if you did not complete during class time. Unless you spoke to Dr. Gomez and set up additional time before class is over. All assignments usually only take one class period. If you need additional time and its set up before hand Dr. Gomez will allow a full 24 hrs. after assignment is due to bring it back the next day.

**Assignments and Papers:** Keep all assignments and papers in your folder in the black shelve by my desk. Please do not throw anything away until we clean out our folders. It is the responsibility of the student to turn in assignments on or before the due date. Typed assignments as double-spaced, single sided, with a 12 font size, Times New Roman, and a proper paper heading and title unless otherwise instructed.

Technology Clause: If a student can’t turn in an assignment on the day it is due because of a technology malfunction (computer crash, etc) then a written and signed note by a parent explaining the malfunction is required. If the assignment can be printed at school, then a note from a parent is not required; however, the assignment must be printed before class starts in order to avoid late penalties. Printing assignments can be done at the computer lab or library.

**Test Corrections:** Students may complete test corrections on exams for which they scored less than 70%. Students

corrections and reflection writing

**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.

**Office Hours: If you need help, advice, or to make up a test I am available each day from 8:25 to 8:45 am and from 2:45 pm to 4:30 by appointment only.**

**Cell Phones**

Cell phones must remain off and out of sight during class, in accordance with school policy. Unauthorized use will result in progressive consequences, including parent contact and possible confiscation. First offense will receive an explicit verbal warning.

Further offense will receive a parent phone call. Repeated offenses will result in phone confiscation. In this case, a parent will need to request the phone be returned in person.

**Dragons Way Discipline**

Disruptive students will be disciplined according to the Dragon’s Way 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.**

**Course Materials**

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

\* Pencils- Must have one everyday \* Loose Leaf Paper

\* Headphones / plugin earbuds (2 pair) \* 6 Gear 1 Subject Notebook

 no wireless headphones \* Highlighters



**My contact information:**

**Dr. Sally Gomez**

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

Cell Phone:423-314-3506

Parents and guardians are encouraged to reach out with any questions or concerns. You may contact me via email, phone call, or text.

\*\*\* 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_