8th Grade ELA Syllabus

Mr. Kitchens

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Teacher Class Page: <https://www.rcboe.org/Page/62176>

\*\*\*This Syllabus is a living document. Changes may occur as circumstances arise\*\*\*

**Course Descriptions:** Welcome to 8th grade Literature and Composition! We will cover a range of genres, both fiction and non-fiction, as well as writing styles such as narrative, informational, and argumentative.

**Materials:**

**Pen or pencil**

**Notebook**/**Binder:** Keep up with your notes. They will be relevant ALL year. Even though most assignments will be submitted in Canvas, you should still WRITE DOWN YOUR NOTES. When you write, you REMEMBER.

**Loose leaf paper, until we get set up in our paperless classroom**

**Earbuds for testing/I-Ready**

**Water bottle**

**Academic Expectations:**

**Please** make sure you have all your materials with you each day. You need a physical notebook to write down notes. When you write, you remember.

**Complete** the Bellringer discussion as I take roll. **Bellringers** should be at least three full sentences.

**During** the opening, please give me your attention and take notes. If you have a question, wait until I pause my lecture and raise your hand.

**Complete** assignments in a timely manner. Due dates are on the assignment. I rarely give homework, so generally speaking, homework is class work you did not finish.

**Always** do your best! That’s all I want. I will never ask you to do more than I know you can do. Strive to meet your true potential and never give up, even if a task seems difficult. No student that **COMPLETES ALL** their work has **EVER** failed my class.

**Grading Policy**: (tentative, will be set once school begins)

Formative Assessments (bellringers, classwork, homework): 70%

Summative Assessments (Quizzes, Tests, Projects, Essays/Writing): 30%

**Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism** on assignments will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is the taking of ideas (yes, even if you take their idea and put it into your own words) or words that are not your own and not giving proper credit to the original author. It is also plagiarism if the majority of the assignment is someone else’s work, even if you have cited. To avoid plagiarism, you must cite your work. Everything that does not come from your own head must be cited. When directly quoting or paraphrasing, there should be an in-text citation. **Academic Dishonesty**, as in, copying from another student or from the internet, will result in a zero for the assignment.

**Late work Policy:** Students need to complete work on time. If there are mitigating circumstances, please notify instructor in a timely manner. Due dates will be located on the assignment in Canvas. The lock date is NOT the due date and most of the time assignments will be due by end of day. Late work will receive a penalty of one letter grade per day it is late down to 70%, meaning if your assignment is 1 day late, the highest you can get is a 90, 2 days 80, 3 days 75, 4 or more days 70. Excused absences will not be subject to the late penalty if completed within the RCBOE timeline for excused work.

Assignments will lock before progress reports and report cards, so that I can insure I have everything graded. Once assignments are locked, you may not complete them and they are zeroes, so don’t fall behind.

Q1 Progress Report Lock Date: 9/3. Q1 Report Card Lock Date: 10/7.

Q2 Progress Report Lock Date: 11/5. Q2 Report Card Lock Date: 12/17

Q3 Progress Report Lock Date: 2/4. Q3 Report Card Lock Date: 3/10

Q4 Progress Report Lock Date: 4/22. Q4 Progress Report Lock Date: 5/20

**Behavior Expectations:**

**\*Do not interrupt instruction. Wait until I am finished speaking and then raise your hand with any questions.**

**\*Wait until the work period if you need to leave your seat to get a pencil or ask for a pass. Please use the restroom during classroom restroom breaks and do not ask to leave unless it is an emergency. If you have a medical condition that requires you to use the restroom frequently, please make sure you or your parent have notified me.**

**\*Keep your hands to yourself.**

**\*Be actively busy on your work and do not interrupt others from their work. Low talking is fine during the work period as long as you are BEING PRODUCTIVE. If noise gets out of hand, I will call for silence for the rest of the period.**

**\*No cell phones or other electronic devices. Do not be on websites that are not academically related.**

**If I see your cell phone, I will ask for it and you may have it back at the end of the period. If you refuse to comply, I will notify administration to come get your phone and they will keep it for at least the rest of the day, in addition to me notifying your parent that you should not have a phone in my class.**

**Consequences:**

**1st: Verbal warning**

**2nd: Take you aside to discuss**

**3rd: Call home**

**4th: 2nd Call Home & Detention. Failure to come to detention will result in automatic referral**

**5th: Referral to administration**