***8th grade Language Arts, a Cambridge Course***

***Syllabus 2016-2017***

***Ms. Meunier***

**Contact information:**

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***Welcome*** to 8th grade Language Arts, a Cambridge Course. In this course, we will study language arts skills, including reading, writing, speaking, and listening. We will read a variety of assigned literature as well as your own independent novel choices. As a Cambridge Course, the 8th grade Language Arts curriculum promotes an inquiry based approach to learning to develop thinking skills and encourage intellectual engagement. This curriculum encourages learners who are confident, creative, and intellectually engaged, capable of applying their skills to respond to a range of information, media and texts with enjoyment and understanding. Learners who follow this framework will develop a first language competency in English based on a curriculum designed to be successful in any culture and to promote cross-cultural understanding. You can expect to write frequently, participate in collaborative assignments, and to engage in discussion with your classmates. You will have the opportunity to express your creativity through a variety of projects, essays, and performances, which will showcase your abilities and understanding of course concepts.

**Cambridge Learners:**

A Cambridge learner is expected to be innovative, reflective, engaged, responsible, and confident in their learning. As a Cambridge school, we are working to develop these skills in each of our students.

**Expectations:**

* Be Respectful: Demonstrate respect for all members of our classroom community, including your peers, your teachers (including guest teachers), and administrators.
* Be Prepared: Come to class prepared and ready to work. This includes having all materials necessary to be productive in this class: a pen, a pencil, your folder/binder, and the material we are currently studying.
* Food, gum, and drinks are prohibited in the classroom, with the exception of water.  Water must be in a closed-clear container. As per school policy, chewing gum in class results in a student detention.
* Cell phones, ipods, or any other electronic device are not to be on during class. If these materials are out, then they will be taken and given to PAD to be picked up by the parent.

**Procedures for…**

* **Coming to class**: When you come into class please turn any homework assignments in the basket on the table near the windows. After you have turned in your homework, take your seat, get out your journal, and complete a response to the journal prompt on the board.
  + You will have approximately five minutes to complete journals. Journal responses will be done on a sheet of notebook paper and checked at random. You are responsible for these journals.
* **Tardies:** Class starts when the bell rings; if you are not in your seat and working, you are tardy. Teachers will issue a detention after three tardies per a class period. If the student acquires three additional tardies after the detention, the teacher will issue a second detention and have a conference with both the student and parent (by phone or in person) to discuss the attendance issue. If the student acquires three additional tardies after the conference, the teacher will notify an administrator for further action.
* **Absences:** Absent work MUST be turned in with a COMPLETED blue absent slip stapled to the front. Absent work is eligible to earn 100% credit. Students will be given the amount of days that they were absent plus one to complete course work that was missed during their absence. For example, if a student missed 3 days of school they would be permitted 4 total school days to turn in work without penalty. If absent work is turned in after that period of time, it will be considered late and treated as such. *All assignments you were aware of while absent must be turned in the day you return or they will be considered late.* You will also be responsible for collecting any handouts you missed on the day you were absent; extra handouts can be found in the 8th grade absent binder located on the bookcase. If you have any questions or are confused about any of the work you missed, please come see me after school.

During an anticipated absence, parents must contact the office 3 days prior to their absence if they wish to receive work. Parents may only request to pick up work from the office after their child has been absent for 3 or more days. Students who miss two or less days of school are required to obtain their work upon returning to school. It is the student’s responsibility to acquire, complete and turn in work that was missed during an absence. Websites can also be a great place to keep up to date on assignments missed while out.

* **Late Work:** All work is ***due on time***. However, I understand that “life happens.” The School late policy is as follows: Students must turn in all assignments on time so that the learning opportunities involved in completing each assignment are realized. If a student fails to turn in an assignment on time, students are encouraged to make an effort to complete that work in a timely manner for partial credit as indicated below:
* **6th-8th grade**- Within 2 weeks of the assigned due date for 90% of the original credit.

\*All late work MUST be turned in with a completed pink late slip stapled to the front or it will not be accepted. *Late work will be graded after all current assignments have been graded.*

\* Please note: If the late deadline happens to fall during a day when school is not in session, students must turn in late work the last day school is in session BEFORE the late deadline. For example, if the late deadline is during Fall Break, students must hand in that late work no later than the Friday BEFORE Fall Break.

\* Please note: As we approach the end of a grading period, all late work must be turned in 1 week before the end of the grading period regardless of the deadlines stated above to ensure teachers can accurately and appropriately assess all work in a timely manner.

* **Redoing Assignments:** Assessments may be redone if the student did not completely master the intended content or skills, and the student has demonstrated sincere effort to prepare for the assessment the first time it was given. Rigorous relearning or review in preparation for the second attempt will qualify a student to redo an assessment. Redoing assessments is a privilege, not something to be taken for granted. Students must redo assessments within two weeks of their return; otherwise the original grade stands. The lowest grade to be entered in PowerSchool on an assessment that is ***fully complete*** will be a 50%. Assessments that are not completed in full will result in the student receiving an Assessment Referral.
* **Leaving class:** You must be in your seat and working *until the teacher asks you to start packing up*. If you are finished with assignments for this class there are always books and magazines, available for you to read; others may still be working and we must be respectful of this. When all students have filled out his/her her agenda and all areas of the classroom are neat and tidy, the teacher will dismiss students; the bell will not dismiss students.
* **Plagiarism:**
* According to the Arizona State University’s academic integrity policy, plagiarism is defined as follows: “Plagiarism means using another’s words, ideas, materials, or work without properly acknowledging and documenting the source. Students are responsible for knowing the rules governing the use of another’s work or materials and for acknowledging and documenting the source appropriately” (<http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/studentlife/srr/academic_integrity.htm>).
* Any student who compromises the academic integrity policy will automatically receive a zero, and parents and administration will be notified immediately. For any further questions on academic integrity, please reference the Imagine Preparatory at Surprise student handbook.
* **Ethical Use of Classroom Tools:**
* Students will be using computers, texts, and other resources during the course of the year. They are expected to use any and all materials for their intended purpose. If students fail to use the materials appropriately, they will lose the privilege of having access to them at school.

**Grade Calculations:**

*Assessments of Learning -70% Checks for Understanding -30%*

Assessments of Learning:

* Students will be held accountable to complete all assessments by faculty and staff. This includes having students attend Office Hours, being pulled from Elective courses, Stay Full Day Wednesday Study Hall, and Saturday School for high school students.
* If an Assessment has not been completed within two weeks of the original due date, the student will be given an Assessment Referral. Assessments that are not completed and turned in on the due date are subject to a 10 percentage point deduction in grade.

Checks for Understanding:

* Checks for Understanding follow the school policy for late work (see below for details). If Checks for Understanding are not completed and submitted, a zero will be recorded in the gradebook. After two weeks, this grade cannot be changed. If students do not master the intended content on Checks for Understandings on the first attempt, redo opportunities are granted at teacher discretion. Please discuss this with me.

**Supplies-** Please bring the following with you to class everyday:

* A notebook/loose-leaf paper
* A folder or binder to store homework and graded assignments (Keep graded assignments!)
* Pencils and erasers
* Blue/ Black pens (do not write in any other color, such as pink--these can be hard to read for my old eyes)
* A highlighter or colored pens for editing writing assignments
* The textbook, novel or poetry we are currently studying

**Reading List:**

* *Junior Great Books (a collection of short stories, provided)*
* *Nothing But the Truth\* by Avi*
* *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass\* by Frederick Douglass*
* *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer\* by Mark Twain*
* *Monster\* by Walter Dean Myers*
* Other short stories, plays, etc.

*\** It will be beneficial & is highly recommended that you purchase your own copy for annotations, though it is not required. When homework is assigned, students will be expected to read a copy of their own, or view the text online via my website.

\*Students are also encouraged to read for pleasure and may borrow novels from my classroom library. That being said, there are books for a variety of reading levels, interests, themes, etc. Students should choose *appropriate* texts based on their reading level, interest, etc.

**Classroom donations are welcome and greatly appreciated:**

* Art supplies (markers, glue sticks, construction paper, etc), paper, pencils, pens, tissues, hand sanitizer, etc.

**Homework help, tutoring, etc.:**

* You may find that you need extra help completing assignments or understanding class material. If this is the case, I am always available to help you before and after school by appointment. My scheduled office hours will be held ***Monday from 4:05- 4:35, Wednesday from 8:00-8:30, & Wednesday from 2:00-2:45.***

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**Parent Acknowledgement Form**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_