

8C Blue Dragons 8th Grade Language Arts Syllabus SY 2016-2017

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Welcome to 8th Grade Language Arts class!

Students in this course will:

- Read, analyze, and interpret novels, poems, and short stories
- Plan, write, revise, and edit several pieces of writing including personal narratives, descriptive and informative essays, persuasive essays, and other creative pieces with a sharp, distinct focus experimenting with sentence length, language and voice.
- Understand, appreciate, and use a variety of literary devices and conventions.
- Expand their vocabulary skills through vocabulary study and development of word usage skills.
- Use language correctly, identify parts of speech, and demonstrate knowledge of capitalization and punctuation.

Class Supplies—Bring Them Every Day!

- ✓ 1 Composition notebook
- ✓ College Rule Filler paper
- ✓ Pencils (sharpened before class begins)
- ✓ 1 red pen
- ✓ 1 ream of white paper (extra credit)

- ***Once available make sure to bring these things to class as well:***
 - School planner with parent signature for the agenda.
 - All required assignments.



Course Outline

I. Reading

- A. Vocabulary
- B. Book Reports ~ Fiction and Autobiography/Biography
- C. Literature ~ Analyzing and Interpreting:
 1. Short Stories
 2. Poetry ~ figurative language, imagery
 3. Myths and fables
 4. Literature circles
 5. Class novel study

II. English

A. Grammar

1. Parts and types of sentences
2. Prepositions, propositional phrases
3. Commas, quotations, Punctuation, etc
4. Pronouns, Adjectives, Adverbs
5. Subject-Verb Agreement

B. Writing

1. Short Story, Personal response to a short story
2. Narrative, Persuasive Essay
3. Descriptive paragraph and character sketch
4. Different types of poems, Poem Analysis
5. Citation
6. Fact and Opinion
7. Organize Information
8. Proofreading
9. Context Clues
10. Transitional Words
11. Summary
12. Compare and Contrast

Your Success/Grade In This Class Will Depend On:

- Doing **all** assigned work with honest effort
- Turning work in **on time** and **consistently**
- Coming to class prepared and on time
- Keeping absences/tardies to a minimum
- Making up **all** missed assignments/tests
- Behaving appropriately during class

Helpful Hints for a Successful Year:

- Write **ALL** assignments in your planner (or another organizer) at the beginning of the period. Have your parents sign at the end of the week.
- Consult your agenda at home and complete assigned work.
- Do your very best work each and every day!
- If you have any questions or find you are struggling with a concept and/or assignment, please see Mr. Bautista for support.

Rules and Consequences

1. You are expected to **arrive to class on time** every day, and be ready to work when the bell rings. Shirts **must** be tucked in. A parent note is required when not in uniform.

Consequence: It is important that each student is in their seat and working on bellwork/assignments when the bell rings. ***Tardiness may result in detention.***

2. **Assignments are due on time.** Homework is accepted the day it is due. Projects and assignments lose points each day they are late.

3. If you are absent from my class **it is your responsibility to make up any work** you have missed. Acceptance of any late or make-up work will be decided on a case by case basis (i.e. off island trip, medical reason) There are several ways you can find out what work you have missed:

- Visit PowerSchool website
- Asking a peer/classmate
- See Mr. Bautista during break/lunch

4. **Show respect** for the teacher as well as your classmates at all times.

Examples of disrespect:

- Talking while Mr. Bautista is speaking to the class
- Talking while other students share their ideas to the class. This includes whispering. You are required to listen to other students who share their thoughts
- Using insulting or derogatory language (for example: racially-driven words, name calling, cursing, or “dissing” the ideas and insights of others in class)

Classroom Expectations – Be safe, Be respectful, Be responsible. Refer to the student planner for the school rules if needed. All school rules apply in the classroom and addition to our class expectations.

Infraction and Procedures:

- First Offense: A verbal warning will be given
- Second Offense: A second verbal warning will be given and parent contact will be made either by phone or email
- Third Offense: A referral will be given and the student will be sent to the office
- Fourth Offense: A parent-teacher conference will be requested (depending on severity).

Attendance/Tardy Policy:

All students must provide a parent note explaining the reason for being absent. A doctor's note may be required for absences that are 3 or more days. Prearranged absences must be scheduled with the main office and guidance counselor if the absence is for 3 or more days. Suspended students must get clearance from the discipline office before returning to the classroom.

Students must have a pass/note when coming to class tardy. For example, if the student came from the office or library, a pass must be presented. If a student comes in late from break or lunch without a valid reason he/she may be put into detention or lose certain privileges (i.e. field trip, student activities). Excessive unexcused tardiness and absences will be reported to the truant officer.

Grading Policy:

100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
59-Below	F

Grade Breakdown:

Projects	25%
Quizzes/Tests	25%
Classwork	30%
Homework	5%
Post Test	15%

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Below is acknowledgement of receipt that both parent/guardian and the student has read and understood the requirements and procedures necessary for a successful school year. Please sign below and have your child return the lower portion. If there are any questions or concerns please write comments or leave a name and number on the back of this form or another paper. I may also be reached at the provided email address on the first page. Thank you for your kind consideration and I hope that we can work together to make this a successful academic year for your son/daughter.

****HEALTH CONCERNS****

Parents/Guardians: Please share any health concerns/allergies that your child may have if any:

Student (Print)

Student (Signature) & Date

Parent (Print)

Parent (Signature) & Date

Administrator Signature & Date

Mr. Bautista/Team 8C

