

English 8 – Course Expectations

Overview: English 8 focuses on the communication processes of writing, speaking, reading, viewing, and listening through the study of the content of language and literature. No one process is taught in isolation. Rather, students learn the dynamics of the communication processes as they study the language and literature of the cultures that make up the fabric of our heritage.

UNITS OF STUDY

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Enduring Understandings</i>	<i>Essential Questions</i>
1	Journeys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People learn about themselves through their journeys. • Authors use journeys to develop plot, character, and theme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are people shaped by their journeys and experiences? • How do authors use literal and symbolic journeys to structure stories?
2	Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All individuals have roles in their communities. • Persuasive writing and speaking influences individual and community thought. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do authors develop stories about communities to comment on human behavior? • What persuasive strategies do people use to influence their communities? • How can an individual's beliefs and actions impact a community?
3	Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With all rights and privileges comes responsibility. • Responsible people consider the consequences of their actions. • People need communication skills to be responsible members of society. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What makes a person act responsibly? • What motivates a person to take risks? • How is honesty a social responsibility? • What are a writer's responsibilities?
4	Discoveries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People grow from the discoveries they make during their journeys. • Literature helps us make discoveries about ourselves. • Writers help us discover the power and beauty of language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have you discovered about yourself this year? • How are discoveries both accidental and deliberate? • Why are discoveries sometimes frightening or confusing? • How does language create images of people, events, places, and feelings?

Learning Skills and Mastery Assessments

Learning and Practice: Non-graded assignment designed to work towards mastery of MCPS indicators through timely and specific feedback. They are included on the report card as a learning skill in areas of participation and work completion and is represented on the report card by consistent, often, seldom, rarely and not observed.

Mastery: Graded assignments that will reflect individual achievement of MCPS indicators. They are included on the report card as a letter grade (A, B, C, D, E)

Overall:

Grades will reflect individual achievement of the MCPS standards for a specific marking period.

Learning Skills:

- Learning Skills score will be divided into two categories:
 1. Participation (asking questions, giving ideas, using feedback, engaging in learning)
 2. Assignment completion (homework and class work)
- Data will be collected to monitor progress in these two categories. This information will appear on the student progress report.

Late work: and Missing Work:

- Each assignment will have a **due date**. This is the date by which you are expected to submit the assignment. Your grade will drop one letter grade if it is not turned in by the due date.
- The **deadline** is the last day an assignment will be accepted for a grade. Work not turned in by the deadline will be considered **missing**, which will be recorded as a 0% in the grade book.

Revision of student work:

- Reassessed opportunities will be identified by the teacher before the original task/assessment, but cannot include end of unit assessments, semester exams, research papers, reports, culminating projects or performances.
- All students may be reassessed one time per task/assignment, regardless of grade on original task or assessment, if they meet the following requirements: complete original task or assessment, complete required assignments, **complete reteaching/relearning activities** (as determined by the teacher) and submit the reassessed work by the end of the lesson sequence.
- The reassessment grade replaces the previous grade, even if it is lower.

Grading:

- grades will be recorded in the grade book as points
- the final grade will be made up of :
 - 50% Formative Assessments
 - 40% Summative Assessments
 - 10% Homework Completion/Class Prep.

Extra Credit: There will be no extra credit

Communication:

- Student handbook
- Progress reports/interims
- Report Cards
- Edline: assignments, grades

Student name _____ **signature** _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____