

Mrs. Ramsey's English 8 Syllabus
Prattville Junior High School - Room 26
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Welcome to English 8! I'm super excited to be your English teacher, and trust me, we are going to have a great year — but we all have a part to play in that. I ask that you read the following syllabus thoroughly and review it throughout the year as a reference for any questions you may have. This will ensure that you are as successful as possible! I'm so excited to get to know you!

Throughout the year, we are going to sharpen our reading, writing, research, analysis, speaking and listening skills. English doesn't come easy for everyone, but if you give it your best effort, you will grow! I'll be there to help you every step of the way.

Grades

*Major assignments account for 65% of your grade. These include tests, projects, essays, etc.

*Minor assignments account for 35% of your grade. These include in-class assignments, bell work, discussions, quizzes, participation, etc.

*If an assignment is not completed during the allotted time in class, it will need to be completed as homework.

*Anytime you do not submit an assignment (whether due to an absence or any other reason) *OR* do not submit with your name on it, a grade of zero will appear in PowerSchools. This is not permanent and will change IF/ONCE the assignment is submitted.

*Make-up work is *YOUR* responsibility and must be completed within 2 weeks of your return.

*Lesson plans will be posted weekly on my teacher page at www.pjhscats.com.

Classroom Expectations/Consequences:

Arrive to class on time, prepared, and ready to work. Refer to the below Discipline Plan for full list of rules and consequences.

1. *Show respect and be kind to others.* It costs \$0 to be kind and respectful.

2. *Keep yourself to yourself.* Stay out of everybody's business and keep your hands to yourself.

3. *Follow all classroom routines and procedures.* We want this class to operate like a well-oiled machine. We have routines and procedures that will make this happen. We will practice them over and over until we're all on the same page. Trust me, it will make our days *so* much better.

4. *Pay attention, listen and follow directions.* I document EVERYTHING in PowerSchools. If you do poorly on an assignment due to not paying attention, that will be documented. If you are sleeping, that will be documented. It will ALL be entered so your parent/guardian will know the cause of the grade earned.

5. *Give 100% and TRY!* Are we going to succeed perfectly at everything we attempt? No. Will we get better with practice? Yes! Don't shut down when something is tough. Giving up easily, not even attempting or doing the bare minimum, are simply not options.

6. *If my mouth is moving, yours isn't.* I cannot do my job if you are talking when I'm talking. You and your classmates cannot learn if you're talking when I'm talking. It goes back to rule #1, be respectful.

7. *Advocate for yourself!* It's important that you start speaking up for yourself and handling your business. You've got to look out for #1 and that's you! If you have a question about a grade or anything in general, please ask!

8. *Communicate, communicate, communicate!* If you're having a bad day, let me know. If you're struggling with something, ask for help. We're all humans, and every day isn't going to be perfect. But I won't know any of this if you don't tell me. Additionally, this class will be way more fun if you participate. Join in on our class discussions - I love to see each person's particular point of view. We're all different people from different backgrounds and we each bring a unique perspective to the conversation.

9. *Use electronics responsibly.* Electronics are a privilege and not a right. If you visit a website that you're not supposed to be on, your Chromebook will be taken from you and you will lose privileges. You'll then have to go old school and complete assignments the old fashioned way - on paper.

*My classroom is a No Phone Zone. It should be on Do Not Disturb. No vibrating or sounds of any kind - I don't want to hear it. It should also be put away in your backpack.

*Headphones, AirPods, etc. are only allowed when being used for class instruction as dictated by me.

If you choose to break a rule or not meet an expectation:

First Time: Warning and reminder via student/teacher conference.

Second Time: Phone call to parent/guardian.

Third Time: Student conference with parent/guardian, teacher and admin.

Fourth Time: Office referral.

Rewards:

An Amazing Learning Environment: This is something that the teacher and students work together to create. If you're acting a fool, you & your classmates can't learn and I can't teach. This *is* school, so that's what we're all here for.

'Made Me Smile' Tickets: Tickets will be handed out when a student does something that makes me happy - pushing through on something that was tough, being kind to me or a classmate, adding an amazing idea to a discussion, helping out in the class or an array of other things. Tickets can be collected and redeemed for an assignment pass, music pass, dropping a low minor grade, etc.

Fun Fridays: Each class will be scored weekly based on overall classroom behavior, effort and participation, etc. On Fridays, each class will receive free time at the end of class based on their weekly behavior.

Please be sure to consult the PJHS Handbook, as well as the ACBOE handbook for specific procedures, expectations, policies, etc. that are also in place throughout the county and at the school.

Information on syllabus is subject to change at the teacher's/administration's/school board's discretion.

Classroom Needs

If you'd like to donate a few things to the classroom, below is my Wish List. Thank you in advance!

-Facial tissues

-Hand sanitizer

-Pencils

-Clorox wipes

-Paper towels

-Reams of copy paper

Mrs. Ramsey's English 8 2024-2025 Syllabus

****Return the signed form below, as well as all other signed forms for a 100 homework grade!***

I have read, understood, and agree with the information in this syllabus.

Student Name: _____ Period: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____