



# WETUMPKA MIDDLE SCHOOL SYLLABUS

## 2024 8TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

### BASIC INFORMATION

**Course title:** English Language Arts 8

**Teacher's name:** Seth Maggard

**Contact Information:** [Seth.maggard@elmoreco.com](mailto:Seth.maggard@elmoreco.com)

**Remind code:** @3cb24hcb

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The focus of this English Language Arts class is developing students' skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. In addition to our academic studies, the classroom environment will also promote socioemotional growth and encourage students to become lifelong learners and critical thinkers. Students will read and analyze both classic and modern texts including: novels, short stories, films, speeches, art and poetry to explore themes such as self-identity, culture and the Sinsinawa Dominican values of truth, justice, community, compassion, and partnership in our lives and worldwide. Students will participate in a diverse range of writing activities, assignments, and projects in order to strengthen their communication skills, and develop confidence in their voice as a writer. Our learning targets encourage students to read critically, write consciously, speak one's truth, and be open-minded when listening to the ideas of others.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

The main objective of an 8th grade English course is to help students develop their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking skills. Students may also explore themes such as culture, self-identity, and compassion.

Reading objectives: Understand complex reading passages, Use and understand figurative language, Summarize complicated texts objectively, Interpret text from different formats, and Use critical thinking to distinguish between truth and error.

Writing objectives: Create original works, such as poems, short stories, cover letters, informational reports, and autobiographies. Improve vocabulary, syntax, and the organization and development of ideas. Students may also read and analyze a variety of texts, including: novels, speeches, films, art, poetry, essays, biographies, and historical, scientific, and technical material.

### REQUIRED STUDENT RESOURCES

You will be given a classroom student kit containing:

- paper
- pens/pencils
- Classroom Chromebook
- 1 inch binder for grammar and vocabulary work

### EVALUATION PROCEDURES AND GRADING CRITERIA

#### 2. Grading

We will follow the grading system explained in the school's Student Handbook (100-90 A, 89 B, 79 C, etc.)

. Your quarter grades will be based on writing assignments of varying length, tests, quizzes, class discussions, projects, etc.

Daily Grades	50% of final grade	Test Grades	50% of final grade
A = > 90%			
B = 80 to < 90%	C = 70 to < 80%	D = 60 to < 70%	F = < 60%





# WETUMPKA MIDDLE SCHOOL SYLLABUS

## Late Work Policy

Deadlines for assignments are important for time management on the part of both student and instructor. They allow the instructor to provide timely, substantive feedback on assignments in order to foster student progress. That being said, the relationship between due dates and feedback/grades in this class operates as follows:

- If you turn an assignment in by the date designated on the syllabus, you can expect timely, extensive feedback from your instructor on that assignment.
- If you turn in an assignment up to one week after the due date designated on the syllabus, you can expect some feedback from your instructor on that assignment.
- If you turn in an assignment later than one week after the due date designated on the syllabus (but before the final submission deadline for that part of the class), you can expect a numerical grade from your instructor on that assignment with no to minimal written feedback. You are always welcome and invited to come discuss an assignment, grade, or feedback verbally during my office hours.

## ATTENDANCE STATEMENT

Regular attendance in this course is strongly recommended.

- a. Many ideas and concepts are explained and examined through in-class discussion.
  - b. In-class activities and extra credit opportunities cannot be made-up at a later date.
  - c. Following the guidelines given in class will be expected in all presentations.
  - d. Class time is valuable.
- *Presence:* How engaged was I in today's class? Was I listening? Was I late or did I leave early?
  - *Engagement:* Did I actively participate in all in-class activities? Did I bring the required assignments and materials? Did I work collaboratively with my partners or group?
  - *Openness:* Was I open to trying new experiences? Did I respect others' views even when they differed from my own?
  - *Contribution:* Did I communicate my learning needs to the group? Have I actively contributed to creating the class I want, while being mindful of others' needs, too? Have I shared my insights, observations, questions, comments, or concerns? Have I allowed space for others to share their insights, observations, questions, comments, or concerns?
  - *Self-Responsibility:* Have I taken responsibility for the choices I have made regarding coming to class, turning in my work, and engaging fully with the course content? Finally, and perhaps most importantly, what would the group have missed had I not been in class?

## COMMUNICATION

Considering that this course is a communication course and that you are entering a world where you must communicate professionally, I expect all email correspondence to be professional. As such, please compose your thoughts completely before hitting send; multiple emails prior to an initial reply are frowned upon. Before emailing me, please double check the syllabus and course materials on Blackboard for an answer. I will do my best to respond to all emails within 24 hours.

Each week, I shall send an email reminder about any assignments that are due. Please only email me to set up one-on-one meetings (virtual or in person).

- You DO NOT need to email me regarding absences, and I shall not respond to emails regarding assignments, as all the pertinent details will be provided in class, online, or via our weekly email.
- In lieu of emailing me, I invite you to speak to me before, during, or after class and/or during my scheduled office hours.





## WETUMPKA MIDDLE SCHOOL SYLLABUS

Our If You are Unable to visit me during office hours (virtual or in person), please book an appointment at [link], specifying the reason for meeting in the booking request.

- Emails sent for any other reason will not receive a reply.

This policy is designed to encourage you to listen actively and also to engage in conversations with me about course content in class or during office hours. \*For more in-depth discussions, please plan to meet in person or call my extension. By doing so, this will allow us to get to know each other better and create a more conversationally-rich interaction.

**I also use Google Classroom and a class Remind to disseminate class information. You are encouraged to use these mediums to get in touch with me. I will NOT text students outside of Remind. To join the class, just use this link <https://www.remind.com/join/3cb24hb> or send a text @3cb24hb to 81010.**

### CLASSROOM GUIDELINES, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES

Students are expected to be:

#### 1. RESPECTFUL and polite to all people

Treat your teachers and classmates (and their personal belongings) the way you would choose to be treated yourself. This means,

you may not criticize another person's intelligence, appearance, opinion, race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. It is so important to keep an open mind and respect one another's differences. Also, please do not name-call, swear or use physical force against another person.

#### 2. RESPONSIBLE for yourself and your actions

I will provide a support system to help you learn and succeed, but you need to commit to giving an equal amount of effort in order to do well. Motivation to work hard and do your best will definitely pay off in this course.

#### 3. ORGANIZED with your class binder

You will keep items such as important papers, class work, etc., in this binder. It must include dividers inside it. Your binder is to come to class with you every day and never forgotten. Your binder will be for you, your parents/guardians, and myself. It will not be shared with others. The binder may be graded periodically throughout the school year, so make sure you are organized.

#### 4. PREPARED for class and equipped with English supplies/materials

Come to class on time and prepared with pencils, a highlighter, an English 8 folder/binder with paper, and any handouts or texts

we are using. You will be notified ahead of time if you are to bring additional items. New handouts will be located on a table near

the door as you enter the room. Please check this spot each day on your way in and pick up any new items. If a Warm-Up is posted on the board when you arrive, please begin working once the bell rings.

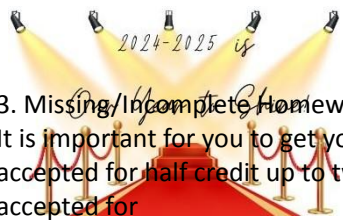
### PROCEDURES

#### 1. Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)

Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) are 'I Can' statements that serve as a goal for understanding and performing a skill. SLOs will be

posted on the board, referred to during class, and monitored throughout the short-term and long-term to help ensure each student's mastery of English 8 skills. SLOs help provide the class with a comprehensive roadmap and a clear goal for learning.





## WETUMPKA MIDDLE SCHOOL SYLLABUS

### 3. Missing/Incomplete Homework and Assignments

It is important for you to get your classwork and homework turned in when it is due. Late work is not encouraged, but will be accepted for half credit up to two weeks past the due date. However, work that has been reviewed in class will not be accepted for

any credit. Per the Student Handbook, missing or incomplete work can also result in a working lunch or detention until the work is completed.

### 4. Absences

If you know you will be absent on a certain day, please see me beforehand to find out what you will miss. If you are absent unexpectedly, you should check the Google classroom to review the items you missed and obtain makeup work before your return.

If you are unable to do so, due to severe illness, family issue, etc., please feel free to e-mail me if possible, or see me when you are back in school.

### 5. Behavior

Students are expected to follow the course expectations and Elmore County Schools Student Handbook requirements. This also includes the school's policy that cell phones/electronic devices should not be seen or heard. Consequences may include a warning, a meeting with the teacher or an administrator to discuss the behavior issue, or contact with a parent/guardian and completion of a Behavior Management form to more directly address the issue and prevent its reoccurrence.

### 6. Agenda/Calendar

Each week, an agenda of class lessons will be posted in class and online via the Google classroom. I will also provide a monthly calendar for any long-term assignments. These schedules are meant to provide students with structure, organization, and advanced

notice of upcoming responsibilities. They also allow parents to track their students' assignments, as needed, and help them stay accountable.

### 7. Additional Help

I am always happy to make an appointment to work with students before/after school, or during a free period if possible. Please feel free to e-mail me if you wish to set up a time.

### 8. Classroom Cleanliness

Please clean up after yourself, keep your work area neat, and dispose of all trash in the waste basket.

### 9. Classroom Materials

Please respect any books or materials issued, and return these items in the same condition they were received. Some books you will purchase on your own, but fees may be assessed for lost texts that belong to the school. Also, please respect your teacher's work space, do not touch items that do not belong to you, and return any materials borrowed (pens, pencils, highlighters) so students in the next period may borrow as well.

### 10. Google Chromebooks

This year, every student will have a Chromebook that will remain in the classroom. These laptops should be respected and kept in working order.

### 11. Food/Beverages

Light food and beverages are permitted when necessary, but if a student does not clean up after his/her self, he/she will lose privileges of eating/drinking in the room thereafter.

