



Ms. Jones

School Ext. #3250 → Room #108

Amazon Teacher Wish List:

<https://tinyurl.com/msjonesWL23>

Office Hours: during homeroom & after school until 4:00pm



Krystle.jones@elmoreco.com
(the best way to reach me)



Text @ela8msj23 to 81010



COURSE DESCRIPTION

Eighth Grade Language Arts is designed to involve the student in applying critical thinking skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking in an independent manner through meaningful interdisciplinary tasks.

Every student will be expected to make authentic, real world applications to the texts we read, and learn to recognize and ideally, come to appreciate the value of all genres of literature and informational text.

Students will engage in a blended learning environment through the use of technology to complete assignments, maintain a digital notebook, and take assessments.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- **Critical Literacy:** Students will process and employ information for a variety of academic, occupational, and personal purposes.
- **Digital Literacy:** Students will use technology, including the internet, to research, analyze, produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products, taking advantage of technology's capacity to link to other information, people, and resources and to display information flexibility and dynamically.
- **Language Literacy:** Recognize and demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar, mechanics, and usage, including appropriate formality of language.
- **Research Literacy:** Engage in inquiry through the research process to locate, acquire, refine, and present, relevant and credible findings in multiple modes.
- **Vocabulary Literacy:** Increase academic, domain-specific, and grade-level-appropriate vocabularies through reading, word study, and class discussion.

COURSE THEMES & TEXTS

Students will be reading at least one primary text for each quarter/unit. These texts will be supplemented with a host of secondary texts to increase understanding.

- Quarter 1 - Rites of Passage:
 - **TEXT: *The Looking Glass Wars***
- Quarter 2 - Mystery and Suspense:
 - **TEXT: *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde***
- Quarter 3 - Challenges and Choices:
 - **TEXT: *Genesis Begins Again***
- Quarter 4 - Nothing New Under the Sun:
 - **TEXT: *A Midsummer Night's Dream***

COURSE ACTIVITIES

- Utilize active listening skills during discussion in pairs, small groups, or whole-class settings.
- Use context clues to determine meanings of unfamiliar spoken or written words.
- Use digital and electronic tools when researching and writing, both individually and collaboratively.
- Utilize a writing process to plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish writings in various genres.
- Assess the formality of occasions in order to speak or write using appropriate language and tone.
- Adapt speech to a variety of context and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English.

GRADING:

Grading for this class will be done based on weighting rather than assigned points. This means that an assessment will affect your grade more than a homework assignment even if the homework assignment is worth 20 points and the assessment is worth 15 points.

WEIGHTS FOR EACH ASSIGNMENT:

- ☉ Formative Assessments (Daily Grades) – **50%**
{Classwork, quizzes, short essays, discussion, homework, etc.}
- ☉ Summative Assessments – **50%**
{checkpoints, tests, essays, presentations, projects, etc.}

Grading Criteria

- A = 100 – 90% = Student demonstrates an Exemplary Level of Mastery
- B = 89 – 80% = Student demonstrates an Above Average Level of Mastery
- C = 79 – 70% = Student demonstrates a Basic Level of Mastery
- D = 69 – 60% = Student demonstrates a Below Average Level of Mastery
- F = 59 – 0% = Student has not demonstrated or has not provided evidence of Mastery

MAKE-UP WORK POLICY:

MAKE-UP WORK IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!! Make-up work must be completed within three (3) school days. More time can be negotiated for students with extended absences. A time to take tests/quizzes can be negotiated in the occurrence of an absence. No make-up work will be completed during class time unless directed. There will be bin in our classroom for students to pick up any make-up work from these absences.

LATE WORK/ POLICY:

It is up to the teacher's discretion to accept any late work or to allow students to make up assignments. Any student wishing to discuss their grade (regarding a particular assignment, late work, extra credit, making up assignments, etc.) must directly speak to the teacher either in person or via REMIND/email.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

To keep classwork and drills consistent, students will need to bring in a composition book (not a spiral notebook) for everyday drills, notes, small writing assignments, etc. Students will also need to have a writing utensil, 2" Binder and loose-leaf paper with them **EVERY** class period.

CLASSROOM COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS

- ☉ Practice **RESPECT** at all times.
 - Yourself, Your classmates, Your classroom, and definitely, Your Teacher
 - Students must demonstrate maturity at all times (no foul language, no physical contact, raise hand before speaking, do not interrupt teacher and classmates).
 - This classroom is a **RED ZONE**. Cellphones or electronic devices should not be visible. Please have them in your backpacks (NOT pockets) at ALL TIMES.
- ☉ **CONTRIBUTE** to the learning environment.
 - Be prepared for class every day
 - Raise your hand to speak or stand
 - Participate in the learning process
 - Ask questions if you do not know or understand
 - Provide support for classmates who be struggling with concepts you understand
- ☉ Be **RESPONSIBLE** at all times.
 - Attendance is necessary for success in English class. If a student misses class time, they are missing the instruction time needed to master skills.
 - Have Integrity by being honest and trustworthy
 - Complete your assignments on time
 - Be supportive and considerate of others
 - Clean up after yourself

CONSEQUENCES

- **STEP 0:** Nonverbal Warning – The teacher will keep students focused on learning without using words or sounds.
- **STEP 1:** Restorative Chat – Students will be verbally reminded that their behavior is not meeting expectations. After two verbal warnings, a student/teacher conference will be initiated.
- **STEP 2:** Parent Conference – Parents will be called to schedule an over-the-phone, Zoom, or in-person conference and a restorative consequence will be assigned by the teacher.
- **STEP 3:** Referral to admin who assigns consequence and/or counselor intervention.
- **STEP 4:** Referral to administrator as a **CLASS II Offense**.

ALL incidents that escalate past a nonverbal warning will be recorded as a Teacher Log entry in PowerSchool.

NOTE: Students who express gross defiance, disrespect, and belligerence (behaviors that jeopardize the climate of the class) will be immediately sent to an administrator. The parent/guardian of the student will receive a phone call from me explaining the incident.



Thank you for reading! Please sign and return this bottom portion of the syllabus and be sure keep the rest for your records.

Parents: My goal for any class is to help my students succeed. If you need to speak with me on any issue concerning your child, please feel free to contact me at school or email me at: krystle.jones@elmoreco.com

STUDENT SIGNATURE:

I have read and understood all items contained in the syllabus for Ms. Jones' English 8 class

Student Printed Name: _____ Student Signature: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE:

My signature acknowledges that I have fully read and understood the syllabus for Ms. Jones' English 8 class.

Parent Printed Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Parent Contact Info (the best way to reach you): _____

Comments, Questions, or Concerns for Ms. Jones: