

# 8th Grade Language Arts

Brandi Derr

## Required Materials

- Pen/Pencil
- Notebook paper (please replenish this throughout the year when necessary)
- Folder reserved for Language Arts for storing homework and graded assignments
- Highlighter (if desired)

## Class Expectations and Consequences

- Rules
  - Be respectful ALWAYS!
    - Keep your hands (and other body parts), objects, and personal comments to yourself.
    - Use appropriate language.
  - Always give 100% effort.
    - Turn in completed work on time.
    - Do your own individual work!
- Consequences (dependent on severity or frequency of offense)
  - Reflection time in hallway
  - Communication with parent/guardian
  - Visit to office

## Communication

- [brandiderr@frankstonisd.net](mailto:brandiderr@frankstonisd.net)
- 903-876-2215
- ParentSquare - Brandi Derr

## Grading Policy

- You can expect to have at least 11 daily grades and at least 3 test grades (which will include vocabulary tests, unit tests, some essays, and projects) for each nine weeks.
- Daily grades will count for 40% of your grade, and test grades will count for 60%. Assignments must be turned in on time. The highest grade that can be received for a late daily assignment is 70. For each day after that, the student will lose 10 more points off their grade. To avoid losing points for late work, students must complete the late

assignments under **my** supervision outside of regular class time. The student will receive a 0 for assignments that have not been turned in.

- Corrections/reattempts of daily assignments are allowed at teacher discretion.
- If students are unhappy with their test grade, they may retake their test (the test will cover the same material but may not be exactly the same as the original test). Please make arrangements with me to come before school, after school, or possibly during Power Hour to retake the test. I recommend student attendance at tutorials before retaking the test to make sure they have mastered the material.
- All corrections/retakes are due by the end of the 3-week grading period during which the work was originally assigned.
- Independent Reading questions will be due on the Tuesday after the assigned chapters were scheduled to be completed and will become unavailable at 5:00 pm on the Friday of that week. If they are not completed during that time, students will receive a zero for the assignment and will not be able to alter that grade.

## Academic Dishonesty

- Plagiarism, or copying someone else's work (including artificial intelligence, or AI) and passing it off as your own, is not acceptable. If plagiarism or another form of cheating is detected, the student will receive a zero for the assignment and the opportunity to redo the assignment or complete an alternate assignment. They will keep the zero until the assignment is turned in again; if the redone assignment has been turned in after the original due date, it will be considered late and will have points deducted accordingly.

## Use of Technology in the Classroom

- Technology will be used routinely throughout the year. Students must complete digital assignments with integrity. Students will be assigned a laptop number and must use their assigned laptop in class. Devices must be handled appropriately, and any damage, discovered, inadvertent, or otherwise, must be reported immediately. Consequences will be determined according to the district technology use policy.

## Major Topics Covered

- Unit 1 - Fundamentals of Communication
- Unit 2A - Analyzing Literary/Narrative Nonfiction and Fiction
- Unit 2B - Analyzing Literary Texts: Poetry and Drama
- Unit 3 - Analyzing Informational Texts
- Unit 4 - Rhetorically Analyzing and Composing Argumentative Texts
- Unit 5A - Interpretation and Response across Genres
- Unit 5 B - Interpretation and Response across Genres Continued

- Unit 6 - Analysis, Synthesis, Creation, and Evaluation