

8th Grade English Course Information and Syllabus (Mrs. Bain)

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Hello and welcome to the 2025-2026 school year! We have a very busy and exciting school year in store for us!

Before I give a short preview of classroom procedures, rules, and expectations, let me introduce myself. My name is Amber Bain and I graduated from Midwestern State University located in Wichita Falls, Texas. I also just recently graduated from Schreiner University with my Master's of Educational Leadership degree. This will be my sixteenth year teaching, and my eleventh year teaching within the Ingram Independent School District. For three years I taught at Ingram Tom Moore High School. This will be my eighth year teaching at Ingram Middle School, and I am beyond excited! I consider myself very fortunate to be a part of the Ingram Middle School family. I am looking forward to a happy and productive school year.

I. Course Description:

Students will be required to read, study, and analyze different genres of literature from many different authors. This course covers the TEKS curriculum and focuses on different forms of literature, the conventions of written English, the development of complex sentence structure, the production of a variety of written compositions, and various projects. Also, correct English grammar will be emphasized. In addition to the policies that will be followed in this class, all school-wide policies and rules will be enforced (dress code, cell phones, tardiness, etc.).

Although it is not often, there will be times that students will have homework. Please know that I am aware of extracurricular activities, other classes, and personal lives, and that I will take that into consideration as I assign homework and projects.

II. Supplies: Students are expected to have all supplies with them at all times.

Notebook Paper
AVID Binder
Pencils
Highlighters

III. Extra Supplies: The following supplies would be wonderful to have in our classroom but are not required. Please donate to our class!!

*Box of Tissues (Need the most)	Markers
Pack of Pencils	Pack of Note Cards
Pack of Notebook Paper	Highlighters

IV. Expectations for students:

My expectations are very high for my students. We will rigorously be preparing for the STAAR exam this year. We will reach for and achieve higher-level thinking as much as possible. I expect students to come to class prepared, on time, and ready to work. We work from bell to bell! Also, I expect students to turn in all work on time and complete. Students are expected to listen and follow all directions given by the teacher. Students will give respect to all faculty, staff, and fellow students. Disrespect will not be tolerated!

V. Guidelines for Success: Every student has the ability to succeed in my classroom if they follow a few guidelines:

- Be respectful to others and yourself.
- Take responsibility for your actions.
- Never say, "I can't do this!"
- Always be positive about everyone's work including your own.
- Try, try, and try again. No one is perfect.

VI. Classroom Rules:

1. Be on time
2. Have All Materials
3. Be Prepared To Work
4. ALWAYS be Respectful

VII. Disciplinary Actions:

Step 1: Verbal Warning

Examples: Failure to follow classroom rules, minor disruptions in class, failing to bring materials to class, etc.

Step 2: Students will stay after class or be assigned lunch detention

Examples: Repeated step 1 offenses

Step 3: Students will contact their parent/Electronic discipline referral turned in after class

Examples: Repeated step 1 offenses for the third time, cheating/copying of work, using profanity or obscene gestures, leaving class without permission

Step 4: Referral to the office immediately

Examples: Repeated step 1 offenses for the fourth time, disrespect towards school personnel, bullying/ harassment. (In extraordinary situations, a student will skip steps 1-3 and be sent straight to the office.)

VIII. Grading Policy:

Zeros will be given if a student fails to turn in an assignment, does not turn in late work within three days of the due date, or turns in an assignment that has been copied from another student. Missing assignments can be made up, and at the teacher's discretion. If a student fails to make up three zeros from missing assignments, the parent will be notified and mandatory tutorials will be set up with the teacher. If a student fails to attend mandatory tutorials set up by the parent and teacher, then the student will be referred to the Principal/Assistant Principal.

Breakdown of Percentages

Assessments/Tests: 40%

Daily Work/Participation: 60%

IX. Tutorials:

Tutorials are scheduled on a need basis, but will happen at minimum three (3) times a week. These sessions will happen between 7:20-7:45 AM and 4:00-4:25 PM. Any and all students are encouraged to attend when they need help or have missing work. Tutorial schedule: Tuesdays 7:20-7:45 and Monday & Wednesday 4:00-4:25.

X. Late work and Make-Up Policy:

If a student is absent from class, he/she will still have two days for every day missed to complete his/her assignments. Students are responsible for checking for any work they missed, completing the work missed, signing up for times to make-up assessments, etc. Students will not be allowed to make up zeros 3 days after the due date of the assignment.

XII. ITM Plagiarism Policy

Tier 1 Violation: Minor citation issues; the copying of another's work may not be intentional - Student may make-up the assignment for a maximum grade of 70.

Tier 2 Violation: Frequent citation issues; student may not understand proper citation procedures - Student may make-up the assignment for a maximum grade of 70 AFTER attending tutorials with the teacher.

Tier 3 Violation: Significant citation issues; student may have copied entire sections of an essay without citing the original source material, OR, may have directly copied another student's work - Student may make-up the assignment for a maximum grade of 50 AFTER attending tutorials with the teacher AND serving 1 day of detention.

If you have any questions or concerns or if you would like to visit our classroom, schedule a conference, or volunteer to help out, you can contact me at the middle school at 830-955-8548 ext. 221 or e-mail me at abain@ingramisd.net. The best times to reach me are Monday through Friday before (7:25-7:45) or after (4:00-4:25) school, or during my conference time (7:50-8:44).

Please return the attached sheet to signify you have read, understand, and accept the previously stated classroom procedures, rules, and disciplinary actions.

Once again, welcome to the 2025-2026 school year. Let's work together to make this the best year ever!

Sincerely,

Amber Bain

(Mrs. Bain)

I have read the information above regarding classroom procedures, rules, and expectations. I understand that I will be required to abide by the classroom rules and all rules of the MS Handbook.

Printed name of student	Student Signature	Date

Printed name of parent	Signature of Parent	Date

Additional Information : PLEASE PRINT

Guardian:

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Circle your preferred method and language of contact:

- | | | |
|----|---------|---------|
| 1. | Phone | E-mail |
| 2. | English | Spanish |

Comments: (If you have any questions, concerns, or directions on the way in which you would like me to contact you please list them here.)

Please list any extracurricular activities your student is involved in and his/her coach's name:

If you would like to list any other guardians or information you feel that I should know about your son or daughter please list it below or on the back of this page.