

8th Grade Language Arts Syllabus
Lincoln Middle School
Lyceum Program
2017-2018

Course Description: Eighth Grade Language Arts is designed to involve the student in applying reading, writing, listening, speaking, and viewing skills in an independent manner through meaningful interdisciplinary tasks. Emphasis is placed on developing writing skills in various forms as well as creating and communicating through technology.

Summer Reading Books

Students were expected to read the following books over the summer. Students will NOT be given a formal exam over these books. Instead, assessment on the comprehension and elements of these books will be done by integrating them into our 1st semester projects

Colonial America (Choose one):

Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson

Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare

The American Revolution (Choose one):

Johnny Tremain by Esther Hoskins Forbes

My Brother Sam is Dead by James Lincoln Collier

The Civil War (Choose one):

Killer Angels by Michael Shaara

Annie Between the States by L.M. Elliot

Slave Experience (Choose one):

To Be a Slave by Julius Lester

Copper Sun by Sharon M. Draper

Homework Policy: The Lyceum 8th grade homework policy is followed in this class (see team handbook for specifics). Some things that are unique to homework in my classroom are:

- I grade all homework.
- If homework is turned in on time and the student does not receive 100% on it, he/she can redo it as many times as needed to show mastery.
- If homework is turned in late, the student refuses the right to redo it for a better grade.
- I will announce a deadline near the end of the 9 weeks for all redoes. After this date no redoes will be accepted for that grading period.

Vocabulary: I integrate a lot of my grammar and usage lessons through my vocabulary units. Every five-day week students will receive a new group of vocabulary words. I use the book *Hot Words for the SAT* (3rd edition) for my vocabulary. Students are not required to purchase this book. All needed information will be given in class. Homework for each vocabulary unit will be as follows:

Tuesday – Sentences using the vocabulary words (points will vary)

Wednesday – Vocabulary cartoon (10 points)

Thursday – Analogies (10 points)

Friday – Vocabulary quiz (30 points)

Writing: This class is a writing intensive class. We will be writing **A LOT**. Part of the writing process includes peer editing. For every writing assignment the writing piece will be peer edited by a minimum of two other students. Likewise, students will be responsible for peer editing two different classmates' writing piece.

Like homework, writing can be redone for a better grade once feedback is given. Please note, the turnaround for a writing assignment to show up in IC is much longer than homework, quizzes, or tests. I take the time to read each student's writing and give constructive feedback. Please be patient with receiving these back.

Some of the writing pieces that we will be creating this year include:

- Feature articles
- News articles
- Propaganda posters
- Commercials
- High school entrance essays
- Poetry anthologies
- Children's books
- Memoirs
- Living history scripts

I have a passion for words and language and would love to discuss my class or answer any questions you may have. You may email me at mcintyrekm@gm.sbac.edu. I am looking forward to another awesome year at Lincoln.

Kathleen McIntyre
8th grade language arts
Lyceum program

Note: Please take a few moments to fill out the attached sheet about your child and return to school by Monday, August 21. Thanks!