

8th Grade English
Mrs. Amy Grant
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Conference Period: 8:15 - 9:25 am

Course Description:

The English curriculum is designed to assist students in discovering and expressing truths about themselves and their world through reading, writing, speaking, listening, and responding. Focus will be placed on developing students' skills in each of these areas, and lessons will cover topics such as comprehension strategies, grammatical conventions, and text structure. However, students will also be expected to interact personally with the ideas that are explored through these mediums.

Student Experiences:

Read (may be whole-class, small-group, or individual):

- complete books (some choice, some assigned)
- short stories (realistic, science, and historical fiction)
- poetry
- essays
- informational text
- any additional material provided in class

Analyze provided texts in a variety of ways, including but not limited to identifying main idea or theme

Reflect on personal life and on reading through journaling or blogging

Share thoughts about reading during small-group and whole-class discussions

Create narrative plot structures, both as reading follow-up and as writing pre-write

Write and revise:

- short story
- multiple essays (at least one informative and one persuasive; at least one research-based)
- poetry (including a poem to “slam”)
- journals or blogs

Perform effective research, gathering information from credible internet and print sources

Share original work with individual peers and with the class

Present a poem in a class poetry slam

Present a speech that includes multimedia or visual displays (ex. DC project)

Improve grammar and spelling skills

Increase vocabulary and improve ability to determine the meaning of unknown words

Record all lessons in notebook and keep notebook organized

Complete assigned in-class and at-home work

Materials Required:

- dedicated space in a binder
- many, many pens and pencils
- portable flash drive or Google Drive account
- lots and lots of looseleaf lined paper

Grading System and Criteria for Evaluation:

Please refer to the detailed explanation in team policies document.

Additional Help Available:

I am available at lunch to help any students needing extra time or assistance with their work. I am also glad to meet with students at other times by appointment. Students can also choose to voluntarily attend the after school Academy on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Course Objectives:

Curriculum is based on the Common Core State Standards, which may be found at <http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards/english-language-arts-standards>