



Eighth Grade English Mrs. Powers

The eighth grade English curriculum consists of a review of the basics of grammar, mechanics, listening skills, public speaking, usage, and vocabulary development with an emphasis on those particular concepts vital to good reading and writing skills. As a literature based course, much of the instruction is done through various literary genres including, but not limited to, the short story, drama, nonfiction, fiction, poetry, myths, legends, folk tales, essays, and novels. Students will read novels both as a class group and individually throughout the year.

Through these models students learn how to recognize, analyze and understand particular types of literary elements and devices that they will learn to use in their own work. Much of this instruction is designed to foster comprehension, including the literal, the interpretive and the applied, and to encourage constructive responses to their readings.

Critical thinking and reading skills are also an important part of the instruction within the English class. Students are encouraged to express themselves and their opinions while learning to validate and justify their responses appropriately as we foster respect and a sense of responsibility for themselves and their fellow classmates. Both cooperative and individual learning techniques are used in my classroom to enhance understanding and to teach the value of group dynamics and social interactions.

Throughout the course of this year, your child will be working on several pieces of writing including narratives, character sketches, descriptive writing, and various types of essays, persuasive pieces as well as creative writing following the First Steps writing program. Much of the writing assignments are based on the literature covered in class as well as independent student readings.

You should expect your child to have home learning assignments regularly with the exception of Fridays. Several long-term projects will be assigned throughout the course of the year as well as monthly book projects. Time management is a key element of success in this class.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's progress in my class or if you have a particular expertise in the area of language arts you would like to share, please do not hesitate to contact me personally.