**8th Grade English Language Arts**

**Course Summary / School Supplies / Grading Policy / Classroom Expectations**

**Ms. Viola/ Mrs. Sora/Mr. Tabone**

**Course Summary**

This 8th Grade English Language Arts class is literature and writing based to meet the Common Core Standards. Some of the famous literary authors we will read include Thanhha Lai, Harper Lee, Michael Pollan, Shelley Tougas and Walter Dean Myers among others. In addition to reading great works of literature, we will also analyze poetry, research expository text, and enjoy personal memoirs, etc. Students will respond to all the literature read through conversation, writing, projects, oral presentations, quizzes, and exams. Students will also be expected to read independently and respond as directed.

**School Supplies:**

1.) 3 ring binder (one section in main binder)

2.) Lined (loose-leaf) paper

3.) 2 pens and 2 pencils

5.) Independent reading book (see our class library, school library or public library)

6.) 2-pocket folder used only for ELA (optional)

**Classroom Expectations and Rules**

***Summer Reading Projects***

All **summer reading assignments** are due September 17, 2021. No late projects will be accepted.

***Book Projects***

Book Projects are due on the assigned day. Students should use their independent reading books for their quarterly Book Projects. Students should have their reading books in class every Friday (Reading Workshop Day). You will lose ten points per day if your project is late.

***Electronics / Cell phones***

Chromebooks should be brought to class each day. Cell phones are to be kept in lockers unless specifically requested by the teacher for the day’s lesson.

***The beginning of class***

When class time begins, you should already be seated at your desk, copying your homework into your planner, and beginning the Do Now activity.

***Absences***

If you miss a day of school, it is **your responsibility** to make up any work from that day. You may see me before the school day (homebase), during your lunch period, or at the end of the day to get the ELA work that you missed.

***Hats/Jackets/Food/Drinks***—No hats or outerwear are to be worn in the classroom. No food or drinks in the classroom. Let’s keep our work space clean.

***Bathroom procedures***—There are no bathroom passes allowed during the **first or last ten minutes** of class. Please **take a pass** when you leave the classroom.

**8th Grade Curriculum Outline**

**Unit I:**

“Finding Home”

* *Inside Out and Back Again,* by Thanhha Lai (novel written in verse)

Written Assignment: Free Verse Poetry

**Unit II:**

* Memoir/Personal Narrative
* Written Assignment: Personal Narrative (Essay)

**Unit II:**

“Taking a Stand”

* *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee
* Written Assignment: Argumentative Essay

**Unit III:**

“Research- Understanding Perspectives”

* *Little Rock Girl: 1957,* by Shelley Tougas
* Written Assignment: Research Paper

**Unit IV:**

“Decision Making and Forming Positions”

* *The Omnivore’s Dilemma,* by Michael Pollan
* Written Assignment: Position Paper

**End of Year Mini-Unit:**

* Introduction to William Shakespeare / Preparing for high school