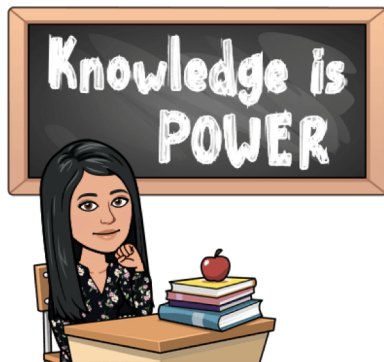


English Language Arts Grade 8


CC Griffin Middle School

2020-2021 COURSE SYLLABUS



Ms. Oliver

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Supplies

In class, students will need:

- **Lots of pencils!**
- Composition notebook
- Earbuds

Optional -- If we move to Plan A or B –

- 1 folder with pockets for vocabulary
- Many students like to have their own art supplies for class. Colored pencils, crayons, markers, scissors and scotch tape or glue sticks will be very useful, and should be kept in a personal pouch or pencil box.

** These items will not be able to be shared in class due so that we aren't sharing as many germs.

Course Description

Eighth Grade English Language Arts will target students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Reading strategies, critical thinking skills, and vocabulary building comprise the main elements of our reading instruction. Through fiction, nonfiction, and poetry reading, students will practice reading strategies and metacognitive comprehension skills. The focus of our writing instruction will be on narrative, informational, and argumentative writing. We will incorporate problem and project-based learning through a PBL in each unit to enhance 21st century skills such as creativity, collaboration, communication. The overall goal of our class is to increase the literacy and writing ability of all students.

Units of Study

- Unit 1: Agency & Independence: Launching Reading Workshop with Experienced Readers
- Unit 2: Developing Analytical Reading Practices: Interpretation
- Unit 3: Memoir Writing
- Unit 4: Nonfiction Reading: Navigating Expository, Narrative, and Hybrid Nonfiction
- Unit 5: Developing Critical Lenses for Informational Reading
- Unit 6: Informational Writing
- Unit 7: Tackling Complex Texts
- Unit 8: Literary Essay (Argumentative Writing)

We will cover poetry throughout the curriculum by incorporating weekly poems that fit our thematic concept for each unit.



“BOOKS ARE A UNIQUELY PORTABLE MAGIC.”

– Stephen King

Late Work/ Zero Policy

Late work will be accepted for one week after the grade is posted into PowerSchool for standards-based assignments.

Zeros will serve as place holders for missing work throughout the quarter. After one week, any zero will be changed to a 50 for a final grade for the assignment.

Vocabulary

Students will review word parts from last year and learn eight additional sorts of Greek/Latin roots.

There will be a pop quizzes on word parts. Students may study each sort by using Quizlet on their computer or phone.

Canvas and Microsoft Teams

Students will be using Canvas for assignments throughout the school year. Daily assignments will be posted in modules along with due dates. Parents that would like to check student progress can also check Canvas for missing work! Parents, look for directions on my webpage to join Canvas as an Observer.

Students will use Microsoft Teams for all LIVE classes.

Grading



Performance (70%):

Performance tasks will account for 70% of a student's grade, and be weighted differently for major assessments and minor assessments.

Standards based assessments and PBLs will count as major assessments (double weighted) and vocabulary tests will count as minor assessments (single weighted).

Practice (30%):

Practice assignments will account for 30% of a student's grade.

Class Expectations



BE PREPARED

- Come to class on time, focused and ready to learn.
- Come to class with all assignments completed.



BE RESPECTFUL

- Respect yourself and others.
- Respect our class time and our materials by being focused and on task during live sessions.



DO YOUR BEST

- Be responsible for your learning; work hard and do your best.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help.