



# Liberty Middle School

281 Dock Murphy Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

## 8th Grade English Language Arts

Mrs. Jessie Norris & Mr. Micah (Jonathan) York

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| <b>Teacher Contact Information</b>        | <b>Email:</b> Mrs. Norris <a href="mailto:jcnorris@madisoncity.k12.al.us">jcnorris@madisoncity.k12.al.us</a> ; Mr. York - <a href="mailto:jmyork@madisoncity.k12.al.us">jmyork@madisoncity.k12.al.us</a><br><b>Classroom Phone:</b> 256-430-0001 ext. 83201<br><b>LMS Webpage Links:</b> Mrs. Norris <a href="https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/2340">https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/2340</a><br>Mr. York <a href="https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/1109">https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/1109</a>  |
| <b>Textbook Information</b>               | <i>StudySync</i> Grade 8, McGraw-Hill<br>iReady: <a href="https://login.i-ready.com/">https://login.i-ready.com/</a><br>No Red Ink: <a href="https://www.noredink.com/">https://www.noredink.com/</a><br>Common Lit: <a href="https://www.commonlit.org/en">https://www.commonlit.org/en</a><br><i>Parents and guardians can access other supplementary materials through the Schoology platform.</i>   |
| <b>Course Description</b>                 | <p>To help students prepare for college and future careers, the foundation for 8th Grade Language Arts stems from the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards for incoming 8th graders who will eventually progress to 9th grade Language Arts. The content standards focus on four specific areas: reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. In 8th grade, students will analyze a variety of literature and informational text. The reading standards will require students to read and analyze a variety of fiction and informational texts to determine how literary devices interact, identify central themes, examine author’s craft, and support these findings with textual evidence. Students will be guided through the research and writing process to produce writing in the narrative, expository, and persuasive modes along with guiding and implementing the Madison City writing curriculum, Claim-Data-Commentary. In addition, students will engage effectively in a variety of collaborative discussions and adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks along with building on and responding to the ideas of others.</p> |
| <b>Course Objectives</b>                  | <p>Students will develop and strengthen critical thinking skills by reading, comprehending, and engaging with both literary and informational texts. Students will make text-to-text, text-to-world, and text-to-self connections. Students will be able to identify, define, and duplicate examples of figurative language found in texts. They will demonstrate their understanding of the text through various formative and summative assessments. Students will display the convergence of their independent thoughts and textual examples in the writing of paragraphs and essays, as well as develop clear and concise writing skills through the execution of writing assignments and the application of proofreading and editing skills. Students will also improve their writing through the increased understanding and application of grammar, mechanics, and vocabulary skills. Students will be able to respectfully engage critically and constructively in a dialogue of ideas through class discussion, small group assignments, and project-based learning. Students will develop and display clear written and verbal communication skills.</p>  |
| <b>Course Outline</b>                     | Unit 1: Summer Reading - <i>Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie</i> by Jordan Sonnenblick<br>Unit 2: Narrative Writing and Grammar Skill Building<br>Unit 3: Non-Fiction Focus and Annotation Skill Building<br>Unit 4: <i>The Outsiders</i> by S.E. Hinton<br>Unit 5: Suspense Short Stories and Argumentative Writing<br>Unit 6: <i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i> by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett (play)<br>Unit 6: Research/Expository Writing to supplement <i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i><br>Unit 7: Dystopian Short Stories<br>Unit 8: <i>The Alchemist</i> by Paulo Coelho and Speech<br><br><i>*Many novels are regularly supplemented with additional text types, both fiction and nonfiction. This course outline is subject to change at any time with or without notice.</i>   |
| <b>LMS General Classroom Expectations</b> | 1. No cell phones allowed during instructional time. Keep all personal electronic devices (cell phones, air pods, headphones, tablets, etc.) stored in a backpack and silenced during class.  |

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|   | <p>2. Be seated and ready for class when the bell rings. Students repeatedly tardy to class will receive a detention per LMS policy.</p> <p>3. Come prepared for class. Bring all necessary supplies, including homework. Bring your school-issued Chromebook (fully charged) and charger daily.</p> <p>4. Respect your teacher, your classmates, and yourself.</p> <p>5. Listen and follow directions.</p> <p>6. If it's not yours, don't touch it. Keep your hands and feet to yourself. If you break something, be prepared to replace it (This also applies to school technology).</p> <p>7. The teacher dismisses the class, not the bell.</p> <p>8. All students must follow the <a href="#">Madison City Schools Code of Conduct</a>.</p>   |
| <b>MCS Technology &amp; Cell Phone Procedures</b> | <p><b>Students should bring their MCS chromebooks and chargers to class each day.</b> Teachers monitor student activity and participation; however, students are responsible for their activity on school-issued devices and using their MCS accounts.</p> <p><b>Cell phones and earbuds/headphones will not be allowed to be used during classroom instruction time.</b> Phones and earbuds/headphones will be put away in a location designated by the teacher and placed in silent mode. Students will have access to their phones and earbuds/headphones outside of classroom instruction time, such as between classes and during lunch, but devices should be put away when students are in the serving line. Failure to follow these procedures will result in a disciplinary referral to the office.</p> |
| <b>LMS Classroom Management Plan</b>              | <p><b>Step 1:</b> Verbal warning</p> <p><b>Step 2:</b> Student/teacher conference with parent notification</p> <p><b>Step 3:</b> Parent contact/conference</p> <p><b>Step 4:</b> Detention</p> <p><b>Step 5:</b> Referral to administration for repeat Class I violations and initial Class II and Class III offenses (<a href="#">Madison City Schools Code of Conduct</a>)</p>   |
| <b>MCS Grading Policy</b>                         | <p><b>60%</b> = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects)</p> <p><b>40%</b> = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation)</p> <p>Writing may be assessed using Turnitin.com</p>   |
| <b>Late Work Policy</b>                           | <p>10% will be deducted off the assignment per week late. After three weeks, the maximum grade a student can receive on a late assignment is 65%. Each unit will have a cut-off date for late work. After this date, no work from the unit will be accepted.</p>   |
| <b>Make-up Work/ Test Policy</b>                  | <p>Students with excused absences will be allowed to make-up all work within THREE (3) days of returning to school per excused absence. <b>It is the student's responsibility to ask for make-up work.</b> Students are asked to <b>check SCHOOLLOGY</b> for any work missed in class. There is a weekly folder where the lesson will be available to access. Students can connect with a classmate and/or ask the teacher for help. After the three day window for make-up work, the late work policy will become applicable. Work that is not made up will become a zero (including quizzes/tests).</p>  |
| <b>Test Failure Policy</b>                        | <p>Students scoring a 64% or below on a test/assessment will be provided an opportunity to complete an additional task (at teacher's discretion) to earn up to a 65%.</p>  |
| <b>Novel Sale</b>                                 | <p>Novels available for purchase (recommended but not required):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>The Outsiders</i> by S.E. Hinton</li> <li>● <i>The Alchemist</i> by Paulo Coelho</li> </ul> <p>Novel sales will begin in August. More information will be shared in class soon. Students will have the option to purchase books through the LMS ELA department fundraiser.</p>  |
| <b>Homework</b>                                   | <p>Students may have homework if classwork is not completed during the class block. Students will be required to review and study for major assignments/assessments at home.</p>   |

*\*This syllabus is subject to change at teacher discretion with or without notice.*

# Classroom Specific Procedures/Routines

*\*If there are specific accommodations required for your student in any of the following areas, please communicate with Mrs. Norris.\**

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| <b>Restroom Policy</b>              | Students are strongly encouraged to use the restroom <b>before or after class</b> in order to minimize distractions to learning. <b>Passes will NOT be permitted during the first ten (10) minutes of class time</b> to ensure accurate attendance.   |
| <b>Food/Drink Policy</b>            | <b>Water bottles containing water</b> are the only beverage permitted during class. Any other food or drink will need to be consumed or disposed of prior to entering the classroom. This is to protect both student and teacher technology and materials.  |
| <b>Supplies</b>                     | <p><u><a href="#">LMS 2024-2025 Supply List</a></u><br/> <b>Students are asked to provide the following materials for class:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ONE (1) 1 inch 3-ring binder (<i>*will be stored in classroom</i>)</li> <li>- FIVE (5) tab dividers</li> <li>- ONE (1) pocket folder (no prongs!)</li> <li>- Pencil(s)</li> <li>- Loose leaf paper (college/wide ruled - no preference)</li> </ul> <p><i>*Optional: Highlighters and sticky notes</i><br/> <i>Please reach out to the teacher if assistance is required in gathering the above materials.</i></p>   |
| <b>Cheating, Plagiarism, and AI</b> | <p><b><u>Cheating (Per the MCS Student Code of Conduct):</u></b> A student who cheats will not receive credit for the work in question. If any other student has cooperated in the cheating, that student is also considered to have cheated and will not receive credit. Cheating students will also be subject to the consequences in the disciplinary consequences in Section XXII of this CSC.</p> <p>Cheating is defined to include, but is not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Copying someone else's work in or out of class and identifying it and submitting it as your own</li> <li>b) Failing to quote and/or list appropriate citations for material derived from published sources (including the Internet) and identifying and submitting it as your own</li> <li>c) The use of unauthorized notes, other materials, or assistance during the accomplishment of graded work in or out of class</li> <li>d) Any other situation in which the student attempts to or accepts credit for work not his or her own</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Plagiarism:</u></b> Plagiarism on an assignment directly violates the above excerpt from the MCS Student Code of Conduct; therefore, the student will not receive credit for the work in question.</p> <p><b><u>Artificial Intelligence (AI):</u></b> The unauthorized use of AI on an assignment directly violates the above excerpt from the MCS Student Code of Conduct; therefore, the student will not receive credit for the work in question. Any work written, developed, created, or inspired by artificial intelligence (AI) without explicit permission from the teacher is considered plagiarism and will not be tolerated. This class is a place for learning, and using AI to complete assignments prevents learning from taking place.</p> |



## Parent/Guardian and Student Acknowledgement

**Please cut and return this signed slip by \_\_\_\_\_.**

**By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the MCS, LMS, and Mrs. Norris' classroom procedures, policies, expectations, and course syllabus. As a student, I agree to follow these guidelines to the best of my abilities on a daily basis. As a parent/guardian, I have reviewed and discussed these topics with my child. Any additional questions or concerns may be communicated via email (see contact information).**

**Parent/Guardian Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Student Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_**

