Teacher Contact Information	**Email:** pgostercbutler@madisoncity.k12.al.us **Classroom Phone:** 256-430-0001 Ext. 83202 **LMS Webpage Link:** **https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/2934**
Textbook Information, Required Texts, and Other Instructional Materials	*StudySync* Grade 8, McGraw-Hill iReady: https://login.i-ready.com/ No Red Ink: https://www.noredink.com/ Common Lit: https://www.commonlit.org/en *Parents and guardians can access other supplementary materials through the Schoology platform.*
Course Description	8th Grade Honors Language Arts is an accelerated learning environment, which requires students to work more independently in class and at home. Students are required to read at and above grade-level texts independently and at an accelerated pace. To help students prepare for college and future careers, the foundation for 8th Grade Honors Language Arts stems from the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards for incoming 8th graders who will eventually progress to 9th Grade Pre-AP English. Students will collaboratively then independently participate in the research process and compose a published product of their findings. Students will also implement Madison City's writing curriculum, Claim-Data-Commentary in written responses. Reading, writing, speaking, listening, and collaborative strategies are used purposefully to build knowledge and skills and to help students become independent readers, writers, and thinkers as they transition into high school. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning, encourage in-depth exploration of the content, and develop academic habits of mind. **Outside/home and summer reading are required.**
Course Objectives	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.
Course Outline **Novel sales will take place in August, 2024. Students will have the option to purchase books through the LMS ELA department fundraiser.*	Unit 1: Summer Reading - *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick Unit 2: Narrative Writing and Grammar Skill Building Unit 3: Non-Fiction Focus and Annotation Skill Building Unit 4: *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton Unit 5: Suspense Short Stories and Argumentative Writing Unit 6: *The Diary of Anne Frank* by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett (play) Unit 6: Research/Expository Writing to supplement *The Diary of Anne Frank* Unit 7: *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury and Literary Analysis Unit 8: *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare (No Fear Shakespeare Version) Unit 9: *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho and Speech ****Many novels are regularly supplemented with additional text types, both fiction and nonfiction. This course outline is subject to change.****
LMS General Classroom Expectations	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. 2. Be seated and ready for class when the bell rings. Students repeatedly tardy to class will receive a detention per LMS policy. 3. Come prepared for class. Bring all necessary supplies, including homework. Bring your school-issued Chromebook (fully charged) and charger daily. 4. Respect your teacher, your classmates, and yourself. 5. Listen and follow directions.

	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). 7. The teacher dismisses the class, not the bell. ***All students must follow the [Madison City Schools Code of Conduct.](#)**
MCS Technology and Cell Phone Procedures	Students should bring their MCS chromebooks and chargers to class each day. Teachers monitor student activity and participation; however, students are responsible for their activity on school-issued devices and using their MCS accounts. Cell phones and earbuds/headphones will not be allowed to be used during classroom instruction time. 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.
Progressive Discipline *(LMS Policy)*	Liberty Middle School Classroom Management Plan: **Step 1:** Verbal warning **Step 2:** Student/teacher conference with parent notification **Step 3:** Parent contact/conference **Step 4:** Detention **Step 5:** Referral to administration for repeat Class I violations and initial Class II and Class III offenses ([**Madison City Schools Code of Conduct**](#))
Grading Policy *(MCS Policy)*	**60%** = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects) **40%** = Daily Grades (Classwork, Quizzes, Homework) Writing assignments may be assessed using Turnitin.com.
Late Work Policy	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 cutoff date for late work. After this date, no late work for the unit will be accepted.
Make-up Work/Test Policy	Students with excused absences will be allowed to make-up all work within THREE (3) days of returning to school per excused absence. **It is the student's responsibility to ask for make-up work**. Students can connect with a classmate 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).
Test Failure Policy	Students who score a 64% or below on a test/assessment may complete an additional task at teacher's discretion to earn a grade up to 65%.
Materials & Supplies	*[LMS 2024-2025 Supply List](#)* **Novels are required for purchase at the Honors level.** Novels to be purchased: ● *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton ● *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho ● *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare (No Fear Shakespeare) ● *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury Novel sales will take place in August, 2024. Students will have the option to purchase books through the LMS ELA department fundraiser. If you choose not to purchase novels through the LMS novel sale, please secure a copy for your student elsewhere.
Homework	At the honors level, students are required to complete reading outside of class. In addition to the required outside reading, students may need to complete unfinished classwork at home. Students will be required to review and study for major assignments at home.

*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. Butler.

Restroom Policy	Students are strongly encouraged to use the restroom **before or after class** in order to minimize distractions to learning. **Passes will NOT be permitted during the first ten (10) minutes of class time** to ensure accurate attendance.
Food/Drink Policy	**Food and drink are allowed in my class as long as allergies are not present in the class, the student cleans up after themselves, and it does not cause any disruption of learning. Students will not be allowed to share their personal food items with each other.**
Supplies	**_LMS 2024-2025 Supply List_** **Students are asked to provide the following materials for ELA class:** - ONE (1) 1 inch 3-ring binder *(*will be stored in classroom)* - Pencil(s), black and blue pens - Highlighters and sticky notes **_Please reach out to the teacher if assistance is required in gathering the above materials. I have several of these items in my classroom!_**
Cheating, Plagiarism, and AI	**Cheating (Per the MCS Student Code of Conduct):** 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. Cheating is defined to include, but is not limited to: a) Copying someone else's work in or out of class and identifying it and submitting it as your own 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 c) The use of unauthorized notes, other materials, or assistance during the accomplishment of graded work in or out of class d) Any other situation in which the student attempts to or accepts credit for work not his or her own **Plagiarism:** 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. **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** 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.
Make Up Work	Students are asked to **check SCHOOLOGY** for any work missed in class. There is a weekly folder where the lesson will be available to access. Students will need to connect with the teacher to pick up any missed handouts upon return. **It is the STUDENT'S responsibility to check in with the teacher regarding late work! For each assignment submitted on Schoology after the deadline, a Late/Missing Work Submission Form must be completed in order to receive a grade.** **If a student is absent on the day of the test, it is the student's responsibility to communicate with Mrs. Butler to schedule a day/time to make up the test. To receive credit, tests must be made up within three days of an absence.**
School-Issued and Personal Technology Policy	**School-Issued Devices:** Students are expected to use school-issued devices for assigned class work/assignments. Students are expected to bring this device (fully charged) and the charger, to school/class on a daily basis. If a student is misusing his/her device, Mrs. Butler may remove the device from the student and provide a paper/pencil alternative assignment. **Personal Devices:** Students are asked to keep all personal electronic devices (cell phones, air pods, headphones, tablets, etc.) **stored in their backpack against the wall** during class time. **Violation #1** - Student will receive a **verbal reminder** to store the device appropriately. **Violation #2** - Parent/Guardian Contact and Detention **Repeated Violations**- Parent/Guardian will be contacted. Meeting with administration scheduled.
Cheating, Plagiarism, and AI	**Cheating (Per the MCS Student Code of Conduct):** 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. Cheating is defined to include, but is not limited to: a) Copying someone else's work in or out of class and identifying it and submitting it as your own 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 c) The use of unauthorized notes, other materials, or assistance during the accomplishment of graded work in or out of class d) Any other situation in which the student attempts to or accepts credit for work not his or her own **Plagiarism:** 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. **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** 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.

Syllabus Acknowledgement

Please sign below to acknowledge the following:
I have read and understand Mrs. Butler's classroom policies, procedures, expectations, and syllabus.
As a **student**, I agree to abide by the classroom guidelines.
As a **parent**, I am aware of the policies/procedures and have discussed them with my child.

As a **student**, I have read and understand Mrs. Butler's classroom policies, procedures, expectations, and syllabus.	(Student Sign Here)
As a **parent**, I have read and understand Mrs. Butler's classroom policies, procedures, expectations, and syllabus.	(Parent/Guardian Sign Here)

Question/Comments/Concerns