

## Course Summary 2019-2020

Course	Teacher	Conference Times	Telephone	Room	E-mail
ELA 8	Mr. Robert Schmidt	A2: 9:55-11:15 B4: 1:45-3:05	(956)-381-5522	135	robert.schmidt @stisd.net

**Purpose:** An integrated language arts curriculum centers on the student, focuses on listening, speaking, reading, and composition, and anticipates the future. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade course is intended to prepare students for high school programs, and to build toward completing higher education goals successfully. It is our endeavor to promote independent thinkers, effective communicators, and life-long learners.

**Objective:** The primary objective of English language arts is to further develop each student's ability to read, analyze and respond to a variety of literary genres; to listen and speak effectively for a variety of purposes, audiences, and modalities; and to apply the conventions of standard English to all written and spoken communications.

### **Assignments:**

Summer reading is assigned in the spring of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade year. Rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders are expected to have read the assigned work and completed the accompanying tasks (see STPA website) **prior to the first day of school**. This year's work is *Refugee* by Alan Gratz.

Homework and classwork/compositions will be assigned to reinforce or extend classroom instruction. A class binder will be maintained and brought to class on a daily basis. The binder will contain college-ruled notebook paper and six dividers that will be labeled: NOTES, CLASSWORK/HOMEWORK, VOCABULARY, TESTS/QUIZZES, COMPOSITIONS, and MISCELLANEOUS. The class binder will be graded intermittently each semester. **Students will be required to copy the Daily Assignments/Activities from the board to the daily school planner as the very first activity of each and every class day.** This will provide a running account of all work completed in and out of class. Homework will consist of outside reading and written exercises and projects which support class objectives. Textbooks issued to students are to **stay at home for use there until the end of the school year**. Access to literary selections will be available electronically. A classroom set is maintained in the classroom for student use; therefore, it is not necessary to bring backpacks containing textbooks to class. Parents are encouraged to monitor their child's class binder and discuss the ongoing class work throughout the school year. Students can expect to have homework assigned regularly.

### **Needed Supplies:**

1. 1 ½" binder
2. 70-80-page spiral notebook
3. College-ruled loose leaf paper
4. Black/blue ink pens (ballpoint preferred) and highlighter (yellow preferred)
5. USB flash drive for saving digital files
6. Paperback: *Night* by Elie Wiesel

NOTE: The Library has laptops available for students to check out with clear library records, as need dictates, for the completion of on-line assignments requiring Study Island, Blackboard, Google Classroom, or other on-line classroom resources.

### **Formative Assessments**

Frequently during the year, formative assessments are given. These are in the form of homework, written or oral quizzes, readings, discussions, student writing, or tests. Teacher response is given to these formative

assessments. These ongoing assessments are critical to learning because they provide information to determine what essential learning will be targeted. They also influence and shape the daily process of learning in order to challenge students to reach their fullest potential.

**Grading Procedures & Weights:**

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|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Homework/Class work:  | 30% |
| 2. Quizzes               | 15% |
| 3. Compositions:         | 20% |
| 4. Tests/Major Projects: | 35% |

All assignments are due on the designated day and time. Students absent the day work is due are to submit the assignment **the next class day after returning to school**. All homework is due at the beginning of class. Assignments submitted electronically are due before the beginning of class time on the scheduled due date. Work submitted after the assignment deadline will have a grade adjustment at the discretion of the teacher. On some occasions there will be a need for makeup work assignments. Provisions will be made during tutorial for makeup work. Students must complete the makeup work in a timely manner, either during tutorial, after school, or at some other mutually agreed upon time before or during the school day. The semester average will be based on the two nine week averages and the grade earned on the semester final exam. The final exam is worth 25% of the grade.

**Retesting procedures:** Students earning a test grade of 69 or lower may retake the test. Additional material during tutorial may be a prerequisite to retaking the test. The time and date for all retests is determined by the teacher. Retest grades will be adjusted at the discretion of the teacher. **Retests will not be given for quizzes, final drafts of compositions, projects, or oral presentations. Semester exams may not be retaken.**

**Pyramid of Interventions.**

The objective of this class is for every student to successfully demonstrate mastery of the Texas Essential Knowledge and skills (TEKS) and the South Texas ISD Essential Learning Outcomes (ELO's) for ELA 8. Students demonstrating success will have flexibility in class activities and outside class time. Students not successfully progressing will be assisted by the in class pyramid of interventions and the campus pyramid of interventions. These interventions may include special class activities and assignments, required tutorial during the school day or after school, and other interventions, such as restorative circles, specific to the student.

Teacher  
Mr. Robert Schmidt

Dept. Leader  
Mrs. Elva Figueroa

Principal  
Mrs. Ana Castro

I have received a copy of this course outline and the parent letter attached to it. I have been given the opportunity to ask questions, and understand the contents:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date