8th Grade Language Arts

Welcome to 8th grade Language Arts! In this class we will be exploring many different kinds of writing to enhance your knowledge as a reader and writer. You should enter this class with a clear and open mind to new cultures of literature and informational learning.

**Miss Fife’s Classroom Expectations. Things to bring to class daily**

* Do your best Pencil/ pen
* Be respectful I pad
* Follow the RCMS hand book Writing Folder
* Have a positive attitude Something to read
* Do the right thing Notebook paper

**Contact Information for Miss Fife**:

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**Textbook**: *No assigned textbook, multiple supplemental text throughout each unit*

**8th Grade Language Arts Standards**:

**Homework**: There will be very little homework in this class as most writing and assessments will be done during class. However if you are not using the work time wisely then it is your responsibility to complete the work on your own time. However, longer writing assignments will require outside of classroom work.

**Class Requirements**: In this class there will be weekly vocabulary quizzes on Fridays. Ample amount of time will be allotted during the week for preparation and review. Students will be allowed to make up or retake any quiz or test for a better grade. **However, it is your responsibility as the student to let me know if you wish to retake a quiz or test, I will not track you down**. This can be done during ZONE or before school.

Throughout the semester we will be practicing a variety of writing techniques.

**Pre-tests and posttests will be given for each unit either in Reading class or ELA**

Long Writing Assessments:

Narratives

Short stories

Argumentative Essay

Persuasive Essay

Short Writing Assignments:

Journals

Poems

Sermons

Exit Tickets

Free Writes/ Weekly Writes

**High Fife’s**

Students will be rewarded for excelling in the classroom. A students who shows strong class participation, does well on an assignment or an assessment, or just doing what he or she is supposed to be doing, without being told, will be given a “high Fife”. These will be a small slip of paper that the student must write their name on. They redeem privileges for having a certain amount of slips. For an example, if a student needs to use the restroom during class time, they may do so by turning in **2** “High Fife’s”. If a student does not have this amount, they MAY NOT use a friends for their own name needs to be written on the back. Another example, student may use **3** high Fife’s to play games on their I-pads once all work has been completed.

**GRADING SCALE**:

**100- At 77-79 C+ 59 and below F**

**94-99 A 74-76 C**

**90-93 A- 70-73 C-**

**87-89 B+ 67-69 D+**

**84-86 B 64-66 D**

**80-83 B- 60-63 D-**

**TENTATIVE WEEKLY SCHEDULE:**

**MONDAY-** INTRODUCE VOCABUALRY WORDS of LITERATURE and GRAMMAR SELECTION for the week.

**TUESDAY**- Weekly grammar/ writing selection and mini-lesson to correspond.

**WEDNESDAY**- Continue with weekly writing/ grammar selection and discussion form day before.

**THURSDAY**- Vocabulary review. Weekly Write. Peer Writer’s workshop

**FRIDAY**- SPELLING/ VOCABULARY TEST. Weekly Author survey.

***WEEKLY WRITES***: Each Thursday you will receive a short writing assessment that will be due the following Thursday. This piece will vary in length, however you will NOT be asked to write more than a page. Weekly Writes can vary from poems, short stories, journal/ diaries, song lyrics, short narratives, ect. Thursdays we will place the desk into a large circle, where everyone will have to opportunity to read their writing aloud. This will also act as a peer writer’s workshop where students will have the role of “the teacher” and edit one another’s writing.

***Reading Day***: Every OTHER Monday, you will have a reading day in class. This will vary between different articles, short stories, non-fiction, fiction, Reading class novel, or AR books. You will be allowed to count this time on your AR Reading Logs for Zone Mrs. Karras and Mrs. Waling.

***Bell Work/ DOL***: Each day when you enter class you will be required to complete some kind of Bell Work. Many times it will look very similar DOL or Daily Oral Language. It will be in I-STEP type format where you may be asked what an underline word in a sentence means, how to rewrite a sentence correctly, ect.,some questions may be simply multiple choice, others may be short response.

***Classroom Folder/ Binder***: It is up to you whether you want a folder or binder, however it is to stay in the classroom. This is how you will turn in certain assignments. **THIS FOLDER OR BINDER WILL NOT LEAVE THE CLASSROOM!!** You will use this folder/ binder as your own personal “mail box”. Not only will you be using your folder/ binder to turn work in, but this is also where I will return your writing to you once it has been graded.