

Mrs. Dupre's Grade 8 ELA

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Ste. Rose School

Course Description:

Throughout the course of the year, students will be focusing on developing their skills in ELA; through the discovery practices of sense making, understanding systems, exploration and design, as well as discovering power and agency. This will be accomplished through focusing on a variety of thematic texts/units over the course of the year.

Writing

- Students will be writing on a daily basis on many different self-selected topics, using a variety of genres.
- Criterial setting, modeled writing and instructional mini lessons occur on an ongoing basis.
- Much of the students writing will take part in a "Writers Workshop" format exploring both fiction and non-fiction writing, but will also include free-writes, poetry, magazines/newspaper articles, inquiry research, picture books, various types of paragraphs (descriptive, persuasive, compare/contrast, how-to, etc.) and other individual areas of interest.
- Writing lessons will follow a structured framework organized around a schedule of at least two writing blocks per week.
- Students will work on editing, vocabulary, grammar and spelling programs to enhance their writing skills.
- Assessment of student writing occurs on an ongoing basis, using rubrics, checklists, individual student conferences and self-assessments.

Reading

- Students will read and respond to a variety of self-selected novels/books/articles (fiction and non-fiction, exploring a variety of genres. This will be done in a reading workshop setting, which incorporates mini lessons, discussion, and large blocks of time in which to read, share and respond to text.
- Reading instruction will occur using the following framework in order to teach various learning strategies:
- Teacher Modelling, Guided Practice, Shared Reading and Independent Practice

Proposed Texts and Units: (Subject to change/omission)

- The Hobbit (Text)—September/October

The Hobbit follows Bilbo Baggins as he goes on a new, dangerous adventure. He meets dwarves, dragons, goblins, elves as he goes on a journey to discover himself.

- Greek Mythology (Assortment of Texts)—October/November

We can learn a lot from Greek Mythology. These texts teach us valuable life lessons that are still prevalent today.

- Crime and Mystery Writing—November/December

Students will work on descriptive writing that revolves around the genre of crime and mystery.

- Gothic Writing—January

Gothic Writing follows the horror genre and allows for adaptation of classic stories that will allow an understanding of key writing techniques.

- Independent Novel Study (Text)—February

Students will be working on a variety of assignments regarding a text of their choosing to enhance their comprehension as well as their writing ability.

- Sherlock Holmes Stories (Assortment of Texts) – March

Sherlock Holmes is one of the most famous literary characters. These stories deal with mysteries as Sherlock uses his intellect to solve these problems.

- The Hunger Games (Text) – April/May

The Hunger Games deals with control from the government and unjust rules. We follow Katniss Everdeen as she tries to avoid dying in The Hunger Games.

- Transactional Writing —May/June

Transactional writing focuses on “real world writing” such as newspaper articles, speeches, etc. Students will be focusing on applying their understanding to different world events.

Classroom Expectations

- Arrive on time and be prepared to learn, work hard and have fun.
- Complete all homework assignments. Homework will be assigned when students are not able to complete their assignments in class or if students are absent.
- Following the deadline of any assignment, the student’s mark will be recorded as zero. Upon completion of the assignment, it will be graded and recorded. At reporting periods, a final deadline will be given for the evaluations to take effect on the report card for that reporting period.
- If you are absent (due to illness) or know you will be absent (due to a field trip or for personal reasons), it is your responsibility to catch up. If you are absent on the day of a test, it is your responsibility to arrange a time to write the test on another date. This should be done immediately on your return to school.
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated and any student found to have plagiarized work will receive a mark of zero until the assignment is redone. Any plagiarism will result in a

conversation with the student, classroom teacher, parents/guardians, and possibly administration.

- Extra Help – If students need extra help, I am available and lunch hour, and arrangements can also be made before and after school.
- Know and abide by the code of conduct (available in the student handbook).

Cellphone Policy:

Students are not allowed to have their phones at any time during class.

Late Policy:

You will be considered late if you are 10 minutes late for your lesson.

Assessment Breakdown:

100%.... Summative Assessment

** Students will receive a variety of assignments designated for assessment. These will include (but are not limited to) written, verbal, and group assignments. Students will be marked on an overall percentage based off of the weighted value of each assignment**

** Students will be given an overall percentage and a value on a scale of 1-4 based on the different curriculum expectations. **

Plagiarism/Cheating Policy:

Ste. Rose School Handbook outlines the expectations in regards to academic dishonesty (If at any time you are unsure about an assignment it is the student's responsibility to ask for clarification), attendance and the use of technology.

Required Materials:

- Binder
- Loose Leaf
- Pencils/Pens (both red and blue)