

Mr. Anstett's Grade 8 ELA Class

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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.

Proposed Texts and Units:

- 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.

- Sherlock Holmes Stories (Assortment of Texts) -- October/November

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

- Descriptive Writing—November/December

Students will work on writing to describe in order to enhance their readers understanding of their ideas.

- Expository Writing—January

Expository writing encompasses all forms of writing. They will be working on research, explanation, as well as enhancing their understanding of developing their ideas in their writing.

- 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.

- Adversity Writing (Anthology)—March

Students will be looking at a variety of texts as they work on overcoming different forms of adversity in their life.

- Animal Poetry (Anthology)—April/May

Students will be looking at different forms of poems relating to different animals. They will be shaping their understanding of different poetic techniques throughout the unit.

- Crime and Mystery Stories (Assortment of Texts)—May/June

Crime and Mystery Stories tie in descriptive and expository while understanding different ideas from different texts.

Required Materials:

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

Classroom Expectations:

1. We respect each other. We are all different and unique, and each of us has something to add to each other's learning. When we are sharing these experiences, we will listen and respond with respect.
2. We try our best. Not everyone is equal when it comes to their abilities. I only ask that you try to give your best every day, and that today you are trying to be better than yesterday.
3. We are a team. We are allies and are here to help each other on the journey through education. I am your coach, not your boss.
4. We learn from our mistakes. We are all human and as such, we make mistakes. Get up, dust yourself off, and learn from it so that you do not repeat your mistakes again.
4. We celebrate each other's success. If one member of the team wins, we all win.

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.

Absences Policy:

Your parents will be receiving an email/phone call/letter if you are absent 5 times this year. They will be receiving another email/phone call/letter if you have absent 10 times. If you are absent more than 10 times, a parent meeting will need to be scheduled in order for you to continue with this class.

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.

1st offence- The student will receive a 0 (zero) on the assignment. A phone call/email will be sent to the parent/guardian.

2nd offence- A letter will also be sent home to the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian must sign the letter and return it to the school. The Student will receive a 0 (zero) on the assignment.

3rd offence- The student will receive a 0 (zero) on their assignment and they will be referred to the principle for further disciplinary action. A meeting will need to be arranged with the parent/guardian to address the severity of this issue.

Re-submitting Assignments:

Students will be allowed to resubmit assignments throughout the semester. The reason they are allowed to submit assignment is because every student in own their own “learning journey”. Students will be allowed to grow from their mistakes in order to grow as a writer/ELA learner. The following procedure will take place in order for a student to resubmit an assignment:

- The student may only resubmit the assignment when it is written by hand (even if the original assignment was typed).
- They must also resubmit the original assignment.
- They must highlight the changes they have made from their original assignment (they cannot say they “changed everything” and highlight the whole assignment, they have to be specific as to what they changed –eg, capital letters).
- They can only resubmit the assignment 1 week after the assignment was handed back from the teacher. The assignment must be completed on the student’s personal time (they will not receive class time to complete the new assignment)

** It should be noted that resubmitting the assignment does not guarantee a higher mark on the assignment**