

THERON L. SWAINSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL 2020-2021



School-Wide Rules (Safety, Organization, Achievement, Respect)

1. Keep food and drink in the cafeteria
2. Keep hands, feet, objects, and unkind words to yourself
3. Hats, unacceptable clothing, hoop earrings, and other nuisance items will be confiscated only to a and returned to a parent/guardian
4. The use of personal cell phones, beepers, pagers or any other electronic communication devices **is prohibited during the instructional day.** As long as use is not disruptive, students may use these devices during scheduled lunch periods and while on the bus. These devices must remain off during instructional time including any time between classes. These items will be confiscated if used other than the times indicated above.
5. Place all litter in trash cans.
6. Students will be prepared and ready for instruction daily.
7. Refrain from chewing gum on campus.
8. Show respect for yourself, others, and school property.

THUNDERBIRD NORMS

1. No one has the right to hurt another person.

2. Education and the classroom are essential priorities.
3. Show pride in your school.
4. Always act as a respectful lady or gentleman.
5. Never behave in a way to misrepresent yourself, your family, your peers, or your school.

Course Expectations 8th grade English Language Arts 2020-2021	BEHAVIOR- Possible consequences 1st Offense- Verbal Warning 2nd Offense- Phone Call Home with Teacher Consequence 3rd Offense- SISP Referral (conference with counselors) 4th Offense- SISP Referral (parent conference with counselors) 5th Offense- Discipline Referral	Tardy Policy 1-Verbal Warning and SISP 2-Phone Call Home(Contact Log), Teacher Consequence and SISP 3-SISP Referral (Conference with Counselor) 4-SISP Referral (Parent/guardian Meeting Request with Counselor and Teachers) 5-Infinite Campus Discipline Referral
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**PLEASE PRINT OR DOWNLOAD PAGES 1-5 FOR YOUR REFERENCE.
PLEASE PRINT PAGE 6 AND SEND IT BACK TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR
CHILD.**

Textbook: Students will be given a textbook to use at school. It will remain at school, but students may tear pages out to complete assignments. This consumable textbook contains both texts and exercises that will complement reading assignments given in class. **Each student will be given one consumable textbook per year. Lost or destroyed textbook fines can be paid at the front office.** Students will have an online version of the textbook available to them. They will need an internet connection to access the textbook.

Price to Replace Textbooks: My Perspectives consumable workbook \$20.
Additional smaller texts range from \$5 to \$25 per text

***Students will be given several novels throughout the year. The novels need to be returned in the condition they were given to them. If the novels are damaged or destroyed, the student will be responsible for the fine. All novels can be purchased outside of school for individual student use if the students would like to annotate their copy. It is recommended for students to keep their books in a Ziploc bag whenever the student is not reading the book. Students will be given one Ziploc bag a year. We request that the novel fines be paid by the end of the 8th grade year.

Course Description: The foundation for all learning is reading and writing. This English language arts class is designed to complement all disciplines. This course focuses on utilizing vocabulary, thought processes, and strategies to become independent readers and learners.

I. Course goals

- To understand and apply analysis skills and strategies to strengthen vocabulary and increase comprehension
- To utilize the reading process as a foundation for learning
- To understand and apply strategic reading skills to aid comprehension and fluency
- To comprehend, interpret, and evaluate literature (fiction)
- To comprehend, interpret, and evaluate informational text (non-fiction)
- To utilize the writing process to respond clearly and concisely to reading
- To develop the skills to communicate orally
- To apply effective research strategies
- To practice strategic study/learning behaviors
- To build respect and tolerance for diverse ideas by reading a variety of literature and informational text
- To develop the fundamentals of writing as a process
- To practice writing for a variety of purposes and audiences
- To recognize models of quality writing
- To apply principles of standard English usage and agreement in speaking and writing
- To employ the common terminology needed to discuss correct usage, mechanics, and writing style
- To use various types of sentences effectively in order to alter style
- To expand students' knowledge of various literary forms
- To reinforce the students' use of literary terminology
- To read works of literature as a springboard to writing
- To apply students' knowledge of standard English grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling in writing
- To learn digital literacy and digital citizenship
- To learn and practice the skills necessary for group work

II. Course syllabus: The following syllabus provides an umbrella idea that we will be following throughout the year.

- **Unit 1: Rites of Passage**
- **Unit 2: The Holocaust**
- **Unit 3: What Matters**
- **Unit 4: Human Intelligence**
- **Unit 5: Invention**

III. Portfolio

Each student will build an electronic writing portfolio for the year. **Students will need to utilize their district Google account to submit their final essays, projects, and some assignments.**

IV. Additional Course activities

- a. Group projects/activities
- b. Independent reading projects
- c. Dialectical journals
- d. Reading and responding to a variety of literary and informational texts
- e. Research Projects
- f. Journal writing
- g. Essays (analytical and narrative styles)
- h. Individual /group presentations
- i. A minimum of five quizzes and assessments will be given per quarter

V. Evaluation

a. Criteria for arriving at students' grades

i. Assessments	50 %
ii. Projects/Essays/Reports/Dialectical journals	30 %
iii. Classwork /Interactive Notebooks	15 %
iv. Homework/Participation	5 %

b. Semester Grades

Quarter 1 (45%) +Quarter 2 (45 %)+ Semester Exam (10%)=Semester 1 grade
Quarter 3 (45%) + Quarter 4 (45 %)+ Semester Exam (10%)=Semester 2 grade

c. Explanation of student grades

i. A	90%-100%
ii. B	80%-89%
iii. C	70%-79%
iv. D	60%-69%
v. F	Below 59%

d. How and when students will be advised of their grades

- Parents and students are urged to check the *Campus Parent Portal* site for current grades.
- Grades will be posted in the classroom by student number several times a quarter.
- Students will receive a quarterly progress report and a report card every quarter.

e. Citizenship/Behavior Expectations

- Students are expected to be prepared to work. This includes being prepared with homework and all necessary supplies, as well as being prepared to focus on learning.

- Students are to remain focused on their academic tasks in the classroom. Studies show that teachers waste huge amounts of time-keeping students on-task when they have to remind students to stop talking, stay in their seats, and complete their assignments.
- Students are expected to treat themselves, others, and SMS property with the utmost respect. Students will speak politely to me, to each other, and to all faculty, staff, and visitors of SMS. The classroom and other areas of campus will remain neat and clean.
- Students are expected to follow all school rules and classroom rules. This includes the dress code. Students must remove outerwear and backpacks once they enter the classroom.
- Students with any missing assignments will not be able to receive an "outstanding" for citizenship. Students with more than two missing assignments will receive a "satisfactory" for citizenship.

f. Retaking Tests

Please be advised that some tests may be retaken, but only under the following conditions:

- Students can only retake certain tests when they earn an F.
- Students will not be allowed to retake a test if they have any missing assignments.
- The test grade will be an average of their previous grade and new test score.

g. Late Work

- i. Homework assignments are always given with a due date. If classwork is not completed, it may be taken home for homework and will be due the next day.
- ii. Homework turned in after the due date for any reason other than an excused absence will lose one letter grade for each day that it is late.
 - One day late – maximum score = B
 - Two days late – maximum score = C
 - Three days late – maximum score = D
 - Four days or later – maximum score = F
- iii. Each teacher reserves the right to vary the Late Work policy to address individual situations.

h. Make-up Work for Absences

- i. Students are responsible for assignments given during their absence.
- ii. Make-up work can be found in a designated area of the classroom. Requests for make-up work must be done before or after school. Requests for teachers to gather or identify missing assignments cannot be completed during class as this takes away from instructional time for all students.
- iii. CCSD policy states that students have **three** days to complete make-up work for each day of excused absence.

i. Absences/Excused Absence Notes

- i. All absences are to be handled through the attendance office.
- ii. Excused notes must be taken to the attendance office. Students are expected to take the notes to the attendance office before or after school. Students will not be permitted to leave class to turn in absence notes.
- iii. **CCSD policy states that a student with 11 or more unexcused absences in one class period in one semester must be given a grade of F for the semester, regardless of the number or quality of the completed assignments.**

j. Homework and assignments on the Internet students will be assigned homework that can only be done on the Internet. Students will be given time in class to complete such assignments. Students can use the Internet in the library or in the teacher's room before or after school.

k. Emergency School Closure: In the event that there is an emergency school closure, teachers will be posting instructions in Google Classroom. If a student does not have access to Google Classroom, how to access non-Internet based materials will be provided at that time. In the event of an emergency school closure, students are asked if possible to check into Google Classroom twice a week to complete an activity.

VI. Course Supplies

- a. Composition Book-** One-hundred page composition books will be used as a reading journal and as a place for taking notes throughout the course of the year. We anticipate that students will need approximately one composition book a semester for language arts.
- b. Loose-Leaf Notebook Paper-** Assignments that are to be handed in must be completed on loose-leaf paper unless the assignment sheet states otherwise. No assignments on spiral-edged paper will be accepted, not even perforated spiral paper without the "teeth." Assignments submitted on spiral paper will be returned must be redone to receive a grade.
- c. Writing Utensils-** All assignments that are turned in must be written in blue or black pen or pencil. Students may write in any color pen in their journals.
- d. Art Supplies (optional).** Many activities throughout the year require art supplies--such as colored pencils, crayons, highlighters, and Post-it notes. I provide class sets of these materials. Students may also bring their own art supplies when appropriate.

- e. **Highlighters.** Highlighters are useful for organizational techniques and taking notes. Each classroom has a classroom set of highlighters, but the best organized students seem to prefer having an individual set.
- f. **Mechanical pencils**—Students who chose to use mechanical pencils should have replacement lead available. Students are wasting precious class time asking classmates for mechanical lead.
- g. **Earbuds**—Students will be **required** to have a set of earbuds for audio based learning. When earbuds are not being used for educational purposes, they will need to be put away in the student's backpack, along with their cell phone or other electronic devices.
- h. **Handouts/packets for class: When students receive a packet for a story and/or novel, they will receive ONE ONLY. If they misplace the packet, they will lose classwork points on the assignments associated with the packet.**

**** Many of these supplies can be purchased before or after school or during lunch from either the student store or the library.** Students need to come to class prepared with the necessary supplies; they will not be sent out of class to purchase supplies. Teachers may have some limited supplies, but these are frequently purchased with the teacher's funds rather than supplied by the school district. Students who arrive unprepared will find that doing so affects their participation grade for the day.

VII. Explanation of fees

- a. There is no fee for this course.

VIII. Teacher's hours of availability

- a. Teachers are available for conference before school. Please contact the main office (799-4860) to schedule a formal conference or to leave me a message. Phone calls and e-mails will be returned as soon as possible. In general, e-mail is the quickest way to reach a teacher. Please include your child's name in the subject line.
- b. The teacher's e-mail address will be provided the first day of class and during open house.

Student's Name:

Student Number:

Student:

- ☐ I have read and understand the school rules and school norms listed above.
- ☐ I have read and understand the progressive discipline steps for inappropriate behavior and tardies.
- ☐ I have read and understand the course expectations provided for this course.

Signature of Student_____
Date**Parent/Guardian:**

- ☐ I have read and understand the school rules and school norms pertaining to my child.
- ☐ I have read and understand the progressive discipline steps for inappropriate behavior and tardies.
- ☐ I have read and understand what is expected of my child in this course.

Signature of Parent/Guardian_____
Date_____
Name_____
Phone number_____
Email address_____
Name_____
Phone number_____
Email address

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