



# 8th Grade English & History

## A NOTE FROM MRS. HALL

Welcome to 8th Grade! I'm so excited to get to know each and every one of you BETTER this year. Some things will be much like last year and some will be different. Get ready to work! We have tons of exciting lessons, projects, and activities to keep up busy and help us become better learners. Just like last year, I have designed these courses to be a rich, engaging, and thought-provoking experience to help you become a better reader, writer, listener, speaker, critical thinker, and member of society. My philosophy as a teacher is to equip you with skills that will actually help you in real life. When you leave my class, I want you to have the ability to think critically and creatively, respond to texts and media, communicate effectively with other humans, understand different perspectives, and use the power of literacy to change your life and this crazy world for the better.

### CLASS MOTTO

Today, I will behave as if it is the day I will be remembered. ~Theodor Seuss Geisel

This year as a class, we will strive to live by our class motto, evaluating negative and positive choices and how these contribute to who we are and who we want to be. Students are expected to make good choices regarding their behavior every day. If needed, we will use a demerit system to realign behavior. Positive behavior will be rewarded using a ticket system that enables students to win various prizes throughout the month. Repeated negative behavior will be addressed with loss of PE time, isolated seating, call or note home to parents, and finally a visit to the principal.

### CLASS MATERIALS NEEDED

- One 1-inch 3-ring binder with pockets
- Two composition notebooks
- Pencils/Pens
- 4 Highlighters of different colors
- One 3-Hole Punched pocket folder (no prongs)
- Tab dividers
- Notebook Paper

*Complete section below, cut on dotted line, and return to Mrs. Hall*

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Info (cell #) \_\_\_\_\_ (email) \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below you acknowledge that you received the syllabus packet for 7th ELA and History.

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

☐ Please sign me up for access to the Google Classroom Account



## IMPORTANT CLASS NOTES

- Each Monday a class newsletter will be sent home informing parents/guardians of upcoming events and assignments as well as current course of study.
- This year we will be using **Google Classroom** to complete many assignments as well as communicate with parents. Please be sure to return the Student email permission form ASAP. These school emails will be used **EXCLUSIVELY** for schoolwork. When classroom page is set up, it will be posted in the class newsletter.
- In addition we will be implementing AMPLIFY, A highly engaging and exciting curriculum. Student and parental access links will be included in class newsletter when they become available.
- **GRADES** will be based on the following assignment types: homework, projects, writing assignments, quizzes, unit tests, class participation and learning station work.
- **MAKE-UP WORK** is accepted **ONLY** for excused absences. When absent, please check the make-up work folder. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO RESCHEDULE MISSED ASSESSMENTS!**
- **LATE WORK:** Practice work is accepted late for 50% off. Assessment work is accepted for 10% off per day late, up to 5 days.



### CONTACT INFORMATION

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### TENNESSEE STANDARDS FOR 8th ELA AND HISTORY

Visit the link below to view the learning standards required for 8th grade English and History classes. These will be taught throughout the year.

English:

[https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/stateboardofeducation/documents/massivemeetingsfolder/meetingfiles4/10-20-17\\_III\\_J\\_Non-Substantive\\_Changes\\_to\\_Math\\_ELA\\_Science\\_Standards\\_Attachment\\_2\\_-\\_ELA.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/stateboardofeducation/documents/massivemeetingsfolder/meetingfiles4/10-20-17_III_J_Non-Substantive_Changes_to_Math_ELA_Science_Standards_Attachment_2_-_ELA.pdf)

History:

[https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/standards/ss/Social\\_Studies\\_Standards.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/standards/ss/Social_Studies_Standards.pdf)

# 8th ELA Course Calendar



## 1st 9 Weeks

**Unit 1:** Learner Profiles/Multimedia/Narrative & Memoir Writing

**Anchor Texts:** Primary Source Multimedia Selections from WWII

**Objectives:**

- Students will research learning styles, the brain's inner workings, as well as study and testing skills in order to create a personal learner profile.
- Students will identify narrative techniques and analyze the impact of author's craft and structure.
- Students will use the writing process and narrative techniques to produce narrative writing assignments.

**Major Assignments:** Childhood Memoir,, Reading Project, Learner Profile Project

## 2nd 9 Weeks



**Unit 2:** Evaluating Arguments/Rhetorical Techniques and Argumentative Writing

**Anchor Texts:** Selections by Walt Whitman, Frederick Douglass, President Abraham Lincoln

**Objective:** Students will analyze argumentative writing and how it caused cultural shifts in history, specifically in the 19th Century.

**Major Assignments:** Expository Essay, Reading Project, Emancipation Project Quest

**Unit 3:** Science and Science Fiction

**Anchor Text:** Grimley's *Frankenstein* Graphic Novel

**Objective:** Students will read and analyze the central themes of a classic text, apply abstract concepts to an author's portrayal of a character, as well as identify allusions and their impact on the text.

**Major Assignments:** Argumentative Essay, Reading Project, Class Debate

# Course Calendar Continued

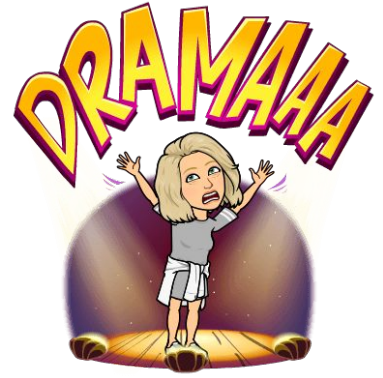
## 3rd 9 Weeks

### Unit 4: Drama

**Anchor Texts:** Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*

**Objective:** Students will analyze Shakespearean language, characters, and themes as well as perform scenes from the play.

**Major Assignments:** Argumentative Essay, Play Interpretations Project, Reading Project



### Unit 5: Rhetorical Techniques and Propaganda

**Anchor Texts:** Various Primary Source Multimedia, Literary and Graphic Nonfiction Texts

**Objective:** Students will synthesize multiple accounts of a historical event to develop understanding and empathy.

**Major Assignments:** Expository Essay, Holocaust Class Discussion, Reading Project

## 4th 9 Weeks

### Unit 5: TN Ready Review

**Anchor Texts:** Various Narrative and Informational Texts

#### Objectives:

- Students will analyze texts using learning standards taught throughout the year to practice and reinforce testing skills.

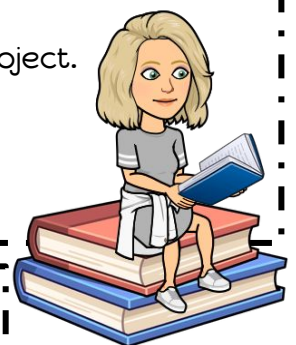
**Major Assignments:** TN Ready Test

### Unit 6: Research

**Anchor Texts:** Primary and Secondary Sources from the Space Race collection.

**Objective:** Students choose from a large collection of primary and secondary sources to develop a question, conduct research, and create a multimedia project.

**Major Assignments:** Multimedia Project, Astronaut Blog



Note: Grammar and Punctuation Skills will be taught throughout each unit.