

Welcome to Ms. Tacke's 8th Grade Language Arts Class

I am here for you. People who have strong writing and communication skills open many doors for themselves in life. I am here because I want you to go to college. I am here so you can read and understand what some of the greatest minds have shared on paper. I am here so you and *your* great mind can share your thoughts, ideas, emotions, and opinions with the world. Take this opportunity to 'grow your brain' and you will open many doors.

What do I expect of you?

An extreme amount of effort will be necessary to succeed in my classroom. Given that we have so much to learn this year, I will not allow distractions from learning. You will:

Take yourself seriously. You will learn a variety of skills this year. I want you to be prepared for high school and college. You are the leaders of the EBMS campus this year, and with that comes great responsibility. Follow directions and do your work and success will follow. If you ever have a question or need extra help please talk to me. My door is always open to you!

Come to class ready to learn. Always arrive with materials in your hand and ready to focus. Don't let negative distractions get in the way of YOUR success. You should have your writer's notebook and your binder at school EVERY DAY! If you forget your pen or pencil, quietly ask a classmate to let you borrow one. Asking me to lend you materials takes valuable time away from learning.

Allow others to learn. Follow the EBMS school-wide rules and PRIDE. Respect others trying to learn. Respect me as your teacher. There will be a time when you do not know what a word means (*facetious*), or do not know the answer to a question. In school, we LEARN – we are not supposed to know everything; otherwise, we wouldn't be here. Additionally, **I will not tolerate name-calling or put-downs.** You don't have to be best friends with everyone, but you do have to learn to work cooperatively with ALL your classmates.

Rules and Consequences—Rules and negative consequences have been set to ensure that we achieve the most we can out of every class.

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| <p>Class Rules:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Follow directions the first time given2. Keep hands, feet and other objects to yourself at all times3. Raise your hand to speak and respect the speaker4. Be on task at all times5. Use appropriate language6. Prohibited items include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ gum✓ hoods and hats✓ food✓ beverages (except for water)✓ all electronics | <p>Negative Consequences:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Redirect2. Reminder3. Reflection (Buddy Room and Phone Call Home)4. Referral to OCS (On Campus Suspension) <p>*For severe behavior, students will be sent immediately to OCS or to the administration.</p> |
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Positive Consequences – I will make positive phone calls, write positive notes and positive e-mails for exceptional behavior. School ACT tickets will also be passed out in my classroom for behaviors that show students ACTing with PRIDE.

How will I be graded?

A = 90- 100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

Below 60% = F

Students' grades are based on points earned for class work, homework, projects, quizzes, student notebooks, and tests. Quizzes/Tests/Papers/Projects = 55%, Classwork and Participation = 35%, Homework = 10%

Classwork will be graded based on the following rubric:

| Category | 4 points | 3 points | 2 points | 1 point |
|--------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Effort and Quality | Provides work of the highest quality. No portion (0%) of the handout needs to be redone. | Provides high quality work. Only a small portion (25%) of the handout needs to be redone. | Provides medium quality work where at least half (50%) of the handout needs to be checked or redone. | Provides work that is of poor quality and needs to be checked or redone almost entirely. |
| Sentence Structure | All Responses (100%) are completed using full sentences. The first letter of the first word is always capitalized and there is always punctuation at the end. | Most all responses (75%) are completed using full sentences. The first letter of the first word is most always capitalized and there is most always punctuation at the end | About half the responses (50%) are completed with full sentences. The first letter of the first word is capitalized sometimes and there is sometimes punctuation at the end. | Very little to none of the handout is completed with full sentences. There is no capitalization or punctuation. |
| Heading | X | X | Titled paper, Name, Date, period, rubric included (if instructed) | Missing one or more of the heading requirements |

Late work policy:

General Rule: No Late Work Allowed! Late projects will lose points every day that they are late. If you've missed anything, look in the Agenda binder. If you have questions, talk to me. This year, you'll get two late passes. You these strategically!

New this year – Blended Learning:

We will have Google Chrome Books in our classroom and will be using them several times a week. The programs we'll be using include: MyAccess.com (writing support), Achieve3000 (reading support), Typingclub.com (typing support), Quizlet.com (test and quiz support) and my classroom Schoology website. (See the parent letter for more information!)

Books we'll read:

- *Flowers for Algernon* – Daniel Keyes
- *A Step from Heaven* – An Na
- *The Rock and the River* – Kekla Magoon
- *A Raisin in the Sun* – Lorraine Hansberry

Homework – You will generally have Language Arts homework every night. Homework assignments must be written in your **PANTHER PLANNER** on a daily basis.

Tardiness – Students are late if they are not in their seat working by the time the bell rings.

Materials - The following materials are required for Language Arts EVERY DAY:

- ✓ College-Ruled notebook with at least 80 pages
- ✓ ELA 1 to 1.5" inch binder
- ✓ College-Ruled loose leaf paper
- ✓ 5 to 6 binder tabs
- ✓ Pens and pencils
- ✓ Silent Reading Book



Absences –If a student misses a day, she/he needs to come to Ms. Tacke's classroom before or after school or at lunch to check the daily Agenda binder. This will tell the student what HW was due and where any handouts can be picked up. It is the student's responsibility to get and complete any class work as well as homework missed due to an absence. Missed work must be completed by the next day.

"I have read the 2013-2014 8th grade language arts syllabus and I understand the policies and procedures. I will do my best to contribute to the success of all students."

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date