

EIGHTH GRADE LITERATURE

Lakewood Middle School

2020-2021 COURSE SYLLABUS



Ms. Stirling

Course Description

- Eighth grade literature offers an analysis of the various types of literature with an emphasis on four strands: reading, writing, speaking, and language.
- The literature portion of the curriculum will involve the study of numerous genres including realistic fiction and historical novels, short stories, drama, analytical essays, and speeches. Vocabulary and literary terminology will be explored in context with these genres.
- The Accelerated Reader program will also be incorporated in the curriculum this year.
- Technology will be used to develop necessary skills for the 21st century world.
- The writing aspect continues to expand upon the Thinking Map Write from the Beginning and Beyond program and includes journals, persuasive, informational, and creative writing, fiction, a personal essay on heroes, as well as other varied writing opportunities.

About the Teacher

- Schools Attended: Dexter High School & Alma College
- Currently Attending: Michigan State University – Master's in Educational Technology
- Degree: Elementary Education and Language Arts
- Years Taught: 4

Supplies

The following supplies should be brought to class every day:

- Folder or Binder
- Notebook (if not already stored in classroom)
- Writing Utensil(s)
- A.R. Book



“BOOKS ARE A UNIQUELY PORTABLE MAGIC.”

– Stephen King

Homework

Students should be reading nightly in order to achieve their A.R. goals. During novel units, students may need to read assigned chapters or study vocabulary terms. During writing units, students may need to write or revise elements of their essays.

Grading

Grades will be updated on Skyward within one week of completion, with the exception of the larger scale essay assignments.

Accelerated Reader

We will be continuing the Accelerated Reader (A.R.) program in 8th Grade. Students will be expected to be reading nightly, as meeting their goals is now a highly independent task.

*Important Policy: If a student would like to read a book that is not a part of the A.R. program, they may. If they would like to receive A.R. points for the book, they must write a one page summary of the book. It is the discretion of the teacher to determine the amount of points awarded. All summaries are due one week prior to the A.R. goal due date.

Units for the Year

- Four Novel Studies
- Narrative Writing
- Informational Writing
- Argumentative Writing
- Informational Presentations
- Speeches
- Short Stories
- Weekly Root Words and Vocabulary

Academic Dishonesty

As stated in the Student Handbook, students who copy, cheat, or plagiarize will be subject to penalties of the teacher's discretion. During the year, students are taught how to cite evidence properly. They should do so in order to avoid academic dishonesty.

Late Work

Late assignments are accepted up to one month past the due date for partial credit. After one month, the assignment becomes a zero. A.R. goal deadlines are graded immediately.

Class Expectations

BE PREPARED

- Come to class on time. This means being in your seat at the start time, focused, and ready to learn.
- Come to class with the necessary supplies.

BE RESPECTFUL

- Respect yourself and others. No form of disrespect will be tolerated.
- Respect class time and materials.

DO YOUR BEST

- Be responsible for your learning and your work.
- Take pride in your efforts.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help.