



2023-2024
8th Grade English
Ms. Renkin & Mr. Edney



COURSE DESCRIPTION

8th Grade English is designed to involve the student in applying reading, writing, listening, speaking, and viewing skills. Through reading non-fiction and fiction selections, the student will practice reading strategies and comprehension skills. The focus on writing will be on narrative, informational, argumentative, and MLA-style research. Grammar and vocabulary will be incorporated throughout the year. The overall goal of the class is to increase the student's literacy, writing, and speaking ability.

COURSE OF STUDY

The major units for this school year are listed below.

1. **Memoirs** (*Narrative Nonfiction*)
2. **Suspense** (*Research/Narrative Fiction*)
3. **Poetry** (*Creative Writing/Text Dependent Analysis*)
4. **One Voice Makes a Difference** (*Persuasive Writing/Speeches*)
5. **"The Diary of Anne Frank" Play** (*Text Dependent Analysis*)
6. **PSSA Prep**
7. **Research Paper** (*MLA Research Writing*)

ABOUT THE TEACHER

Ms. Renkin is the teacher for 7th Grade Reading, 8th Grade English, and 12th Grade AP Literature. This is her seventh year teaching English in the Mercer Area School District.

You can reach Ms. Renkin:

By phone: 724-662-5100

By email: brenkin@mercerk12.pa.us

Parents/legal guardians who desire a parent teacher conference should contact the guidance department at 724-662-2272 ext. 20.

CLASS MATERIALS

The student is required to bring the following materials everyday to class:

1. **Folder**
2. **Notebook**
3. **Writer's Notebook** (provided by teacher)
4. **Chromebook**
5. **Writing Utensil**

Required materials are due in class on Tuesday, September 5th.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

In addition to the expectations described in the student handbook, the student is required to follow the rules described below in English class:

1. Come to class on time and prepared.
2. Respect the teacher, the classroom, the other students, and yourself.
3. Follow class procedures, all directions, and school policies.
4. Put forth your best effort everyday.

CONSEQUENCES

The consequences that the student receives for not following the rules depend on the severity and frequency of the infraction. Consequences may include:

1. A verbal warning
2. Moving the student's seat
3. A detention and a phone call/email home
4. Removal from the classroom

Serious behavioral issues will result in an immediate detention and/or removal from the classroom. Serious behavior issues are defined as behavior that disrupts the educational experience of the other students in the classroom and/or creates an unsafe classroom space for the other students and/or the teachers in the classroom.

OTHER CLASSROOM POLICIES

PASS POLICY:

Students will be given three passes each marking period. Students must use a pass when they leave the classroom. Students can turn in passes in for extra credit at the end of the marking period.

CELL PHONE POLICY:

Cell phones should be put away in the student's designated locker at the beginning of the school day. Any contact made with parents/legal guardians must be made through the office. Additionally, students are not permitted to use earbuds or smart watches during class. First Offense: The student receives an after school detention. Second Offense: The student receives a Saturday detention. Third Offense and Beyond: Phone must be turned into the front office daily.

FOOD AND DRINK POLICY:

Food and drinks are not permitted in class. Food and drinks must be put away before class begins - students should be in their assigned seats when the bell rings.

GRADING SCALE

Grades will be calculated by total points. Grades will reflect a variety of assignments, such as bell ringers, in-class work, exit slips, homework, tests, quizzes, and projects.

Weekly and daily work will be updated on Infinite Campus.

PLEASE NOTE: An "I" in the gradebook represents that the work is INCOMPLETE and has NOT been turned in. If the work is NOT turned in, it will turn into a ZERO grade!

A+ = 96.50 - 100	C+ = 76.50 - 79.49
A = 92.50 - 96.49	C = 72.50 - 76.49
A- = 89.50 - 92.49	C- = 69.50 - 72.49
B+ = 86.50 - 89.49	D+ = 66.50 - 69.49
B = 82.50 - 86.49	D = 59.50 - 66.49
B- = 79.50 - 82.49	F = 0 - 59.49

HOMEWORK POLICY

Assignments are due at the beginning of each class in the turn in bin or Google Classroom (unless otherwise stated by Ms. Renkin or Mr. Edney).

Late work is not accepted for credit in 8th Grade English. "I left it at home" or "I forgot..." or "I must have lost it..." still make the work late, and therefore, not accepted for credit!

*Exception: Essays and writing projects [narrative, informative, persuasive, and research paper] are 10% off for each day late.

****The Research Paper is a requirement for this course. Students who fail to turn in the Research Paper will not be permitted to move on to 9th Grade English.**

ABSENT WORK POLICY

Students who are absent are responsible for making up the work missed in class. Students should check the classroom calendar on Google Classroom before asking Ms. Renkin or Mr. Edney what assignments must be made up.

Students with an excused absence have one day for make-up for each day absent, which includes tests and quizzes! Unexcused absences will result in a ZERO for the assignment.

Students should schedule a time with Ms. Renkin or Mr. Edney to make-up any tests or quizzes.

PLAGIARISM/CHEATING POLICY

Students should complete their own work. Plagiarism is stealing from someone else's work. This includes copying another student's work, allowing another student to copy your work, using AI to write or edit your essay, copying a source word for word without citing the information, stealing an idea or character from a book or movie, etc. If a student plagiarizes an assignment or cheats on a quiz/test, or if a student allows another student to copy his or her work, the following consequences will apply:

1. You will receive a zero (0) on the assignment and receive a consequence based upon the level of the infraction.
2. The student's name will be reported to the office and filed in the event of future violations. Repeated violation could result in removal from class, a non-passing grade, and/or a disciplinary hearing.

UPCOMING DUE DATES

Students are expected to write down homework assignments in their agendas at the beginning of the class period. Homework assignments will be posted on the SmartBoard when students walk in, on the assignment board, and on the classroom calendar on Google Classroom.

Please note that due dates for assignments may change at the teacher's discretion.

Ms. Renkin is available during the advisory period for students who need extra assistance on completing assignments.

Google Classroom Information

Purpose of Google Classroom: Google Classroom is a place where class announcements will be posted, students can ask questions about assignments, students can collaborate with their peers on projects, and students will work on and turn in assignments and homework. It is of utmost importance that your child signs up for Google Classroom as soon as possible so that your child can fully participate in class.

Google Classroom Rules & Expectations: Students are expected to be good digital citizens when participating in our online classroom environment. The same rules and consequences that exist in our physical classroom exist in our online classroom as well. Additionally, keep in mind that...

- Comments on Google Classroom are not for personal conversations.
- If there is a comment or a post that is not school-appropriate, it will be deleted and the consequences outlined in the syllabus will be given.
- It is prohibited to alter anyone else's work in any way. This means that you should never log onto another student's account or alter another student's posts or comments in any way.

Other Rules & Expectations: Students are expected to be responsible digital citizens within the classroom. By being a responsible digital citizen, a student will:

- Respect the property of others in the classroom.
- Stay on task online.
- Keep food and drink away from the computers.
- Keep the computer charged and ready for use.
- Only use the computer during the time assigned in class.

How to Sign Up for Google Classroom: When you go to Google Classroom, click the + sign and add class. You will need to type in your classroom code. Make sure you type in the correct class code below, or you will end up in the wrong class!

<u>READING 7 CODES:</u>	<u>ENGLISH 8 CODES:</u>	<u>AP LITERATURE CODE:</u>
Period 2: pbxuqn4 Period 5: l46qpxg Period 8: 34agnji	Period 3: 2vwu6an Period 4: t5g7ylo Period 9: 35jiv2c	Period 1: pnih2w3

By signing, you acknowledge understanding of the course requirements, goals, & policies. Please include any information that you would believe is valuable in helping me support your child through this course.

Print Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Additional Information: