

ENGLISH – 8th grade 2007-2008

Students shall increase their reading skills through copious reading of their personal choice books as well as through group readings of shorter pieces in class. Students shall advance their writing skills through intensive study of the structure of the sentence, the paragraph, and the essay as well as through weekly, free-form journal writing. Oral language will be developed through thoughtful response to group readings. In late spring, the class will practice the art of giving a speech.

Core Texts:

Building Vocabulary Skills

Nist/Mohr (Townsend Press, publisher)

Ten Steps to Building College Reading Skills

John Langan (Townsend Press, publisher)

READ magazine

Weekly Reader

Supplementary Texts:

Individual choice books

Grading:

Individual Reading - 25%
personal choice reading rubric

Journal writing – 10%
personal reflections – two pages weekly

Daily work/participation – 25%
(skills assignments – 20%)
(being prepared, attentive, and willing – 5%)

Quizzes – 40%
weekly/unit voca
weekly language skills

Schedule:

Monday	Tue	Wednesday	Thu	Fri
<u>DUE:</u> work assigned WED – FRI <i>Check vocabulary</i> <i>READ together</i>	sentences	<u>DUE:</u> work assigned MON-TUE Voc/skills <u>quiz</u> /journal check SSR	writing	work-shop

No late assignments will be accepted. Students will get one “pass” per quarter for assignments turned in within one week of due date. (located on back of *WCS Student Reference Guide*).

Expectations and Policies:

be Polite:

- ✓ be respectful of the needs of others
- ✓ keep cell phones off
- ✓ save personal issues for non-class time
- ✓ abide by school rules

be Prepared:

- ✓ be in class before the bell
- ✓ have with you at all times:
 - personal reading book
 - personal writing journal
 - class textbooks as needed
 - paper and sharpened pencils
 - copy of this syllabus
- ✓ turn in all work by due date; no late work accepted*

Participate:

- ✓ be an active participant in class discussions
- ✓ when you are absent, obtain the information/work you missed
- ✓ utilize workshop time efficiently
- ✓ save bathroom visits for after the first bell
- ✓ do not wear ear phones in class

Please take note: Gaining a solid foundation in English Language skills is especially important for middle school students. Success in all core high school classes hinges on a student's confidence in writing, reading comprehension, and oral expression. I have taken great care to design a course of study that will provide every student with this confidence. I have eliminated all "busy work" that will have anything less than maximum impact on skill development. All the work that I assign is necessary. If any work is not completed by its assigned due date, I will be requesting that student's presence in my after-school tutorial. Failure to attend a required tutorial will result in a blue slip and required lunch detention. All classes are important – if one is missed, it is up to the individual to learn what was missed from other students, to check the assignment board, and to pick up any needed materials from me