

ELA 8

Mrs. Hutchison 2020-2021
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SYLLABUS

LA Course Description from the Madison City Middle School Catalog:

“To help students prepare for college and future careers, the foundation for 8th Grade English stems from the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards for incoming 8th graders who will eventually progress to 9th grade English and Composition.

The content standards focus on four specific areas: reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. In 8th Grade, the reading standards concern students analyzing literature and informational text in the following ways: supporting with specific text evidence, determining and tracing the development of a central idea and relating it to other literary elements, and summarizing their analysis. Students will also investigate the genre of drama by: 1) breaking down dialogue, characters, and plot, 2) analyze how differences in the points of view and its effect on the audience.

Another learning target regards students analyzing through comparing and contrasting films versus various forms of literature, and they will determine how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from genres of literature. In addition, students will determine the figurative and literal meanings of words. Students read and comprehend fiction and nonfiction literature, at the high end of grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently by the end of the year.

Writing standards for 8th Grade consist of students writing in the narrative, persuasive, and expository modes. Students will also be guided through the research process and compose a published product of their findings. Furthermore, students will engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly. Eighth graders will demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. In addition, skill in determining or clarifying the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words or phrases will be acquired. All standards will be taught in a progression that reveals student mastery. Outside reading and summer reading required.” (p.9)

All classroom policies and procedures are subject to change at any time, with or without written notice.

Helpful Information for Virtual/Remote Learning

Virtual Schedule

Students will be required to use Schoology for virtual and/or remote learning. Please check Schoology and your Madison City email daily (M-F) for information regarding weekly assignments. The weekly learning plan will be posted each Monday morning by 8 A.M. Please keep in mind iNow is the official grading platform. Checking iNow regularly will allow you to stay up-to-date on your class averages.

Live teaching sessions will occur almost daily for the first 15-30 minutes of the block. Small group instruction and check-in times will be available and/or assigned. Appointments for office hours can be scheduled by email. Grades will be logged in iNow. Academic dishonesty and inappropriate behavior in the virtual classroom will follow the same consequence procedures as face-to-face instruction.

A Block ELA 8 (8:15-9:29)	8:15-8:35 Synchronous Instruction (A) 8:35-8:55 Online Student Support (A) 8:55-9:20 Daily Office Hour (A)
B Block CW 2 (9:39-10:53)	9:45-10:05 Synchronous Instruction (B) 10:05-10:25 Online Student Support (B) 10:25-10:50 Daily Office Hour (B)
Lunch (10:57-11:42)	Teacher Lunch
C Block (11:42-12:44)	Planning
D Block CW 1	12:55-1:15 Synchronous Instruction (D) 1:15-1:35 Online Student Support (D) 1:35-2:00 Daily Office Hour (D)
E Block Honors ELA8 (2:06-3:20)	2:06-2:26 Synchronous Instruction (E) 2:26-2:46 Online Student Support (E) 2:26-3:20 Daily Office Hour (E)

Office Hours

Office hours are available daily during the allotted time for each block. On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, office hours will be held via email. On Tuesday and Thursday, office hours will be available by appointment via Webex. To schedule an appointment to meet via WebEx, please email Mrs. Hutchison at kthutchison@madisoncity.k12.al.us. Parents and/or students may use this time to conference and discuss grades, behavior, performance, questions, or concerns.

Virtual/Remote Learning Expectations & Etiquette

- Students should make every effort to attend their scheduled class time.
- Students will be respectful and appropriate during live sessions and on any posts.
- Students will remain visible and keep their webcam on and their mic muted unless asking or responding to a question.
- Students will reach out to the teacher for help with any questions.

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What you need to know to have a successful year in Mrs. Hutchison's classroom

Classroom Expectations	Consequences for Non-Compliance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be respectful. Respect yourselves, each other, visitors, Mrs. Hutchison, and the room. • Be in your seat and working when the bell rings. • Be silent and listening when someone else is speaking. • Follow directions the first time they are given. • Have all materials, supplies, and homework for class. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st warning: Behavior ticket /verbal conference • 2nd warning: Behavior ticket and parent contact • 3rd warning: Detention referral • 4th warning: Office referral <p>**Parents may be contacted at any point per teacher discretion.</p> <p>***Certain offenses may warrant immediate office referral as found in the student handbook.</p>

Guidelines and Policies:

Please keep in mind these important policies and guidelines:

1. No gum or food is allowed in the classroom due to ALLERGIES. All bottles and food need to be thrown away in the hallway. **ABSOLUTELY NO PEANUT PRODUCTS IN THE CLASSROOM.** Students may have a water bottle in class.
2. All school and Madison City Schools rules will be followed at all times.
3. **No make-up work can be given unless each absence is excused. You have three days from the date of the absence to turn in an excuse to the front office; all unexcused absences will be given zeroes for each assignment during the absence. Make-up work is your responsibility!**

Class Time

The moment the bell rings, be in your seat with your pencil sharpened, books out, and brain ready to learn. Bellwork will appear on the board every day, and you should begin this before the bell rings. I follow the LMS Student Handbook policy on tardiness. During class time, I expect you to be on task and attentive. I try my hardest to make even the most challenging aspect of English engaging, but your attitude will make all the difference. Class is not over until I dismiss you; you should not pack up until I tell you to do so. If you finish your work early, you should move on to the next task or read your library book.

Passes out of class

If you need to leave for any reason, you **MUST** have permission and must follow the school policies in place. You will be given three passes out of class for restroom/water per nine weeks, so please try to take care of those things before coming to class.

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District Grading Policy

- Tests, announced quizzes, projects, essays, other major assignments = 60%
 - Daily Grades (includes homework, classwork, pop quizzes, notebook checks, etc) = 40%
- ** Progress Reports are sent home after the 3rd and 6th week of each grading period. Grades are also visible on iNow throughout the semester**

Class work, homework, and projects:

Students will be asked to complete a variety of assignments. All assignments done in class will normally be turned on the same day unless otherwise stated.

Late Work Policy

Students will be allowed to turn in work with 10% deducted for each day it is late (up to 2 days after the original due date). Students will know in advance when tests and projects are due. Late projects will be accepted late with a 10% deduction per day up to 2 days late. No extra credit work will be given.

Language Arts Tests

Our scheduled testing days are Tuesdays and Thursdays. These will be the days students are assigned major tests and quizzes. Students will be notified in advance of tests to prepare in a timely manner. If school is out for weather or other reasons on a test day, the test will be the next day unless otherwise noted.

Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating is defined as giving or receiving information on homework, quizzes, or tests or submitting duplicate work for outside assignments. Plagiarism is using another person's ideas or writing as your own. Using technology to cheat or copy the work of another is prohibited. If you are found guilty of cheating/plagiarism, you will receive a zero on the assignment and will be referred to the office for disciplinary action.

Technology Policy

The computers in the classroom belong to the school. All computer policies set by the school and school system will be enforced in the classroom and all computer labs we visit. Computer usage is a privilege and can be taken away if the privilege is mistreated. If students bring personal devices, they are responsible for their own items; I cannot help them with any issues other than giving them information on how to log on and access the server. Students will be given opportunities to use their cellphones/iPads/e-readers/laptops, etc for certain activities that support learning. We will be using Edmodo and Google Classroom to supplement class information and as a way to do tests and assignments electronically. Misuse of any devices during class time will result in a consequence.

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Cell phone / Electronic Device Policy

All cell phones and electronic devices should remain out of sight and hearing unless explicated stated by Mrs. Hutchison. If devices become distracting, the following procedure will be implemented:

1. Verbal warning and behavior ticket
2. Student will turn off device and place it in the "Distraction Drop Off" pocket organizer. Students will be allowed to retrieve their device after class

If the device becomes a consistent distraction, parents will be contacted and the consequences for non-compliance will be followed.

Student Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the student to write down all homework assignments and due dates. It is difficult to make sure each student takes care of his or her responsibilities for the day, so it is up to each student to take care of his or her own work, homework, etc. Reminders for tests, projects, and homework stay on the board until the day the assignment is due, and verbal reminders are given frequently. Additionally, I will post all due dates on Google Classroom. Students will not be allowed to use the excuse, "I didn't know." Please find an organizational tool (planner, calendar, homework folder, etc.) that will work for you to keep track of due dates.

Parent Communication

I will send out frequent communication through my email distribution list to keep parents up-to-date on upcoming due dates, assignments, tests, and projects, as well as other important classroom communication. Please do not hesitate to contact me at kthutchison@madisoncity.k12.al.us if you have any questions at all. Please kindly allow 24 hours for replies to emails (and perhaps a little longer over weekends/holidays). I will do my best to contact you as soon as possible.

**** Syllabus Acknowledgement & Distribution List****

After thoroughly reading this syllabus, please complete the Distribution List Sign-Up on my LMS webpage to acknowledge you have read and understand the policies and procedures. **This sign-up will allow me to keep you updated on everything we are doing in class this year.**

Please email me at kthutchison@madisoncity.k12.al.us if you have any questions!