

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8

*Liberty Middle School*

## 2019-2020 COURSE SYLLABUS



*Mrs. Sarah  
Pepper*

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### *Supplies*

- 1½" 3 ring binder
- Tab Dividers (labeled:  
Bellwork, Reading,  
Grammar,  
Vocabulary, Writing)
- Loose leaf paper
  - Pencils
- Pens (no neon colors  
that are hard to read)
  - Highlighters
  - Post-It Notes
  - Composition  
Notebook
  - Index Cards

### *Course Description*

"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."

- Pg. 9 of the MCS 2019-2020 Course Catalogue



# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN *Mrs. Pepper's* CLASS

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

## *Classroom Expectations*

1. Prepared – everyday with necessary materials
2. Engaged – no cellphones and/or headphones unless for instructional purposes per Mrs. Pepper's discretion / active listening / participation
3. Punctual – be on time / work with a purpose
4. Responsible – follow directions the first time they're given / be a leader / use flex seating correctly
5. Respectful – respect our class and the people in it

## *Consequences*

1. Warning
2. Move Seat and/or Student Conference & Behavior Ticket
3. Parent Contact
4. Detention and Parent Contact or Conference
5. Office Referral

**\*Teachers and school staff reserve the right to skip steps if immediate action is required. All MCS rules will be followed at all times.\***

## *Additional Policies & Guidelines*

### **FOOD LIMITATIONS**

- Due to furniture in classroom, avoid bringing food or non-secure drink items. Spills or crumbs would be difficult to remove, therefore, let's do our best to avoid them completely.
- Screw-top lids (i.e. water bottles) are permissible.

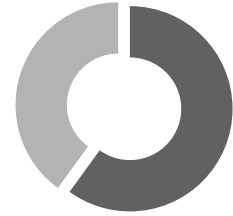
### **FLEXIBLE SEATING IN CLASS**

- Is a privilege, not a right.
- If not using responsibly or if behaviors are interfering with yours or another student's success, privileges will be revoked until further notice.

### **MAKE-UP WORK**

- No make-up work can be given unless each absence is excused. You have 3 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!

## *Grading*



### **SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT (60%):**

Tests, announced quizzes, projects, essays, and other major assignments.

### **FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT (40%):**

Daily grades, includes homework, classwork, bellwork, exit tickets, and occasional pop quizzes.

**\*\*Grades are accessible via INow throughout the semester. Please note that codes such as "ABS" or "EX" will show as a 0 if using a cellular device to access INow. If using a desktop/laptop, the average and codes should calculate correctly.\*\***



# ADDITIONAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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## Class Time (In & Out)

When the bell rings, be in your seat with necessary materials, ready to go. Bellwork will appear on the board every day, and you should begin this before the bell rings. The LMS Student Handbook policy on tardiness will be adhered to. Class is not over until I dismiss you; do not pack up early.

## Classwork, Homework & Projects

Students will be asked to complete a variety of assignments. All assignments done in class will normally be turned in the same day unless stated otherwise. If students are absent, there will be a designated section of the room for your student to collect the necessary materials to complete from their absence day. Students will have 3 days to make up missed work for full credit.

## Late Work

Students will be allowed to turn in work with a 10% reduction for each day it is late, up to 3 days after the assignment is due. Late projects will adhere to this policy as well. Students will know in advance when tests and projects are due. Reminders for tests, projects, and homework will remain on the board until the day the assignment is due. It is the responsibility of the student to write down all due dates. Please use a planner or other organizational tool to help you keep up with due dates.

## Parent Communication

Parents can expect to receive information on upcoming due dates, assignments, tests, projects, and other important classroom information weekly by signing up for my e-mail distribution list. Visit my teacher website for the link.

## Cheating/Plagiarism



- Cheating is defined as giving or receiving information on homework, quizzes, or tests or submitting duplicate work for outside assignments.
- Plagiarism – 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.

## Passes Out of Class

### 3 PASSES PER 9 WEEKS

If you need to leave for any reason, you **MUST** have permission and must follow the school policies in place.

*\*If your student has an extenuating circumstance that requires frequent bathroom visits, written excuses from a parent or doctor must be given to the nurse who will then alert the teacher to allow more passes out of class.\**

## ELL Tests

### TUESDAYS & 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.



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## Technology Policy

Technology can be a huge asset to student learning, if used correctly. When we are free to use our devices, we will be “plugged in”. When we are not to use our devices, we will be “unplugged”. When not used for class-related work, devices should be out of sight, out of mind. Misuse of devices during class time will result in a detention write-up. All computer policies set by the school and school system will be enforced in the classroom and computer labs when visited. Use is a privilege, which can be lost if mistreated. There will be times in class that we use phones/headphones/laptops/iPads, etc. per Mrs. Pepper’s discretion if you choose to bring them. Any personal item you bring from home is your responsibility and Mrs. Pepper is not responsible for lost/stolen/damaged devices.

*\*Sufficient warnings will be given to put up device if not to be used – classroom consequence policy will be followed.\**

## Entering Class

Students will be required to gather any necessary materials quickly, find their seats, and begin working on the day’s Bellwork.

Students who are repeatedly told to get necessary materials and begin the Bellwork assignment after the 2<sup>nd</sup> bell has sounded will be considered tardy. Parents will be contacted if noticing a pattern. If unresolved, student will be assigned detention, and parent’s will be contacted.

## Tardy Policy

- Tardy 1 – verbal warning
- Tardy 2 – behavior ticket and parent contact
- Tardy 3 – detention assigned and parent contact

*\*Extenuating circumstances will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.\**

## Textbooks & Google Classroom

- Textbooks are NOT assigned in Language Arts classes to complete classroom assignments. Textbook codes are distributed so students may access their textbooks online. If desired, a textbook may be checked out from the teacher, via student request for a brief, specific time.
- We will supplement classroom instruction with the use of Google Classroom and Edmodo. More info to come via the Distribution List.

## Mrs. Pepper's Syllabus Signature Form

I have read and understand Mrs. Pepper's classroom policies, procedures, expectations, and syllabus. As a student, I agree to abide by the classroom guidelines. As a parent, I am aware of the policies/procedures and have discussed them with my child. Please cut & return this slip.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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