



Liberty Middle School

281 Dock Murphy Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

8th Grade English Language Arts - Honors

Mrs. Kassidy Hutchison

Teacher Contact Information	Email: kthutchison@madisoncity.k12.al.us Classroom Phone: 256-430-0001
Classroom Digital Platforms	Webpage Link: https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Domain/1880 Schoology Link: https://madisoncity.schoology.com/course/7913329485/materials
Textbook Information, Required Texts, and Other Instructional Materials	<p>StudySync Grade 8, McGraw-Hill iReady: https://login.i-ready.com/ No Red Ink: https://www.noredink.com/ Common Lit: https://www.commonlit.org/en</p> <p><i>Parents and guardians can access other supplementary materials through the Schoology platform.</i></p>
Course Description	<p>8th Grade Honors Language Arts is an accelerated learning environment, which requires students to work more independently in class and at home. Students are required to read at and above grade-level texts independently and at an accelerated pace. To help students prepare for college and future careers, the foundation for 8th Grade Honors Language Arts stems from the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards for incoming 8th graders who will eventually progress to 9th Grade Pre-AP English. Students will collaboratively then independently participate in the research process and compose a published product of their findings. Students will also implement Madison City's writing curriculum, Claim-Data-Commentary in written responses. Reading, writing, speaking, listening, and collaborative strategies are used purposefully to build knowledge and skills and to help students become independent readers, writers, and thinkers as they transition into high school. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning, encourage in-depth exploration of the content, and develop academic habits of mind. Outside/home and summer reading are required.</p>
Course Objectives	<p>Students will develop and strengthen critical thinking skills by reading, comprehending, and engaging with both literary and informational texts. Students will make text-to-text, text-to-world, and text-to-self connections. Students will be able to identify, define, and duplicate examples of figurative language found in texts. They will demonstrate their understanding of the text through various formative and summative assessments. Students will display the convergence of their independent thoughts and textual examples in the writing of paragraphs and essays, as well as develop clear and concise writing skills through the execution of writing assignments and the application of proofreading and editing skills. Students will also improve their writing through the increased understanding and application of grammar, mechanics, and vocabulary skills. Students will be able to respectfully engage critically and constructively in a dialogue of ideas through class discussion, small group assignments, and project-based learning. Students will develop and display clear written and verbal communication skills.</p>
Course Outline	<p>Unit 1: Summer Reading - <i>Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie</i> by Jordan Sonnenblick Unit 2: Narrative Writing and Grammar Skill Building Unit 3: Non-Fiction Focus and Annotation Skill Building Unit 4: <i>The Outsiders</i> by S.E. Hinton [*Students will need this novel by August 22nd.] Unit 5: Suspense Short Stories and Argumentative Writing Unit 6: <i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i> by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett (play) Unit 6: Research/Expository Writing to supplement <i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i> Unit 7: <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury and Literary Analysis Unit 8: <i>Twelfth Night</i> by William Shakespeare (No Fear Shakespeare Version) Unit 9: <i>The Alchemist</i> by Paulo Coelho and Speech</p> <p><i>Many novels are regularly supplemented with additional text types, both fiction and nonfiction. This course outline is subject to change at any time with or without notice.</i></p>

Classroom Expectations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cell phones must be powered down and in a backpack from 8:15 am - 3:20 pm. 2. Be seated and ready for class when the bell rings. Students tardy to class will receive a detention per LMS policy. 3. Come prepared for class. Bring all necessary supplies. 4. Respect your teacher, your classmates, and yourself. 5. If it's not yours, don't touch it. Keep your hands and feet to yourself. 6. We are an allergy-aware classroom. Only approved food items are allowed. No drinks other than water are permitted. <p>All students must follow the Madison City Schools Code of Conduct.</p>
Technology & Cell Phone/Digital Device Procedures	<p>Effective July 1, 2025, the use, operation, or possession of Wireless Communications Devices including but not limited to cellular telephones, tablet computers, laptop computers, pagers, gaming devices, smart watches, earphones or headphones in school buildings or on school grounds during the Instructional Day, is prohibited. Violation of Board policy with respect to such use, operation, or possession of Wireless Communication Devices may constitute a Class II. Madison City Schools has outlined an Electronic/Wireless Device Policy (Policy 6.20) on page 137 of the MCS Policy Manual.</p> <p>Students should bring their MCS chromebooks and chargers to class each day. Teachers monitor student activity and participation; however, students are responsible for their activity on school-issued devices and using their MCS accounts.</p>
Progressive Discipline	<p>Liberty Middle School Classroom Management Plan:</p> <p>Step 1: Verbal warning</p> <p>Step 2: Student/teacher conference with parent notification</p> <p>Step 3: Parent contact/conference</p> <p>Step 4: Detention</p> <p>Step 5: Referral to administration for repeat Class I violations and initial Class II and Class III offenses (Madison City Schools Code of Conduct)</p>
Grading Policy (MCS Policy)	<p>60% = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects)</p> <p>40% = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation)</p>
Late Work Policy	<p>10% will be deducted off the assignment per week late. After three weeks, the maximum grade a student can receive on a late assignment is 65%. Each unit will have a cutoff date for late work. After this date, no late work will be accepted.</p>
Make-up Work/Test Policy	<p>Students with excused absences will be allowed to make-up all work within THREE (3) days of returning to school per excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to ask for make-up work. Students are asked to check Schoology for any work missed in class. There is a weekly folder where the lesson will be available to access. Students will need to connect with the teacher to pick up any missed handouts upon return. For each assignment submitted on Schoology after the deadline, a Late/Missing Work Submission Form must be completed in order to receive a grade.</p> <p>If a student is absent on the day of the test, it is the student's responsibility to communicate with Mrs. Hutchison to schedule a day/time to make up the test. To receive credit, tests must be made up within three days of an absence.</p>
Test Failure Policy	<p>Students who score a 64% or below on a test / assessment may complete an additional task at the teacher's discretion to earn a maximum grade of 65%.</p>
Supplies	<p>LMS 2025-2026 Supply List</p> <p>Novels are required for purchase at the Honors level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Outsiders</i> by S.E. Hinton * • <i>The Alchemist</i> by Paulo Coelho • <i>Twelfth Night</i> by William Shakespeare (No Fear Shakespeare) • <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> by Ray Bradbury <p>Students will have the option to purchase books through the LMS ELA department fundraiser. *All novels will be available for purchase through the fundraiser with the exception of <i>The Outsiders</i>, which must be purchased elsewhere.</p> <p>If you choose not to purchase novels through the LMS novel sale, please secure a copy for your student elsewhere. Novels that have annotations in them (i.e. from previous students or siblings) are not allowed.</p>

Homework	<p>At the honors level, students are required to complete reading outside of class. In addition to the required outside reading, students may need to complete unfinished classwork at home.</p> <p>Students will be required to review and study for major assignments at home.</p>
Cheating, Plagiarism, and AI	<p><u>Cheating (Per the MCS Student Code of Conduct):</u> A student who cheats will not receive credit for the work in question. If any other student has cooperated in the cheating, that student is also considered to have cheated and will not receive credit. Cheating students will also be subject to the consequences in the disciplinary consequences in Section XXII.</p> <p>Cheating is defined to include, but is not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Copying someone else's work in or out of class and identifying it and submitting it as your own Failing to quote and/or list appropriate citations for material derived from published sources (including the Internet) and identifying and submitting it as your own The use of unauthorized notes, other materials, or assistance during the accomplishment of graded work in or out of class Any other situation in which the student attempts to or accepts credit for work not his or her own <p><u>Plagiarism:</u> Plagiarism on an assignment directly violates the above excerpt from the MCS Student Code of Conduct; therefore, the student will not receive credit for the work in question.</p> <p><u>Artificial Intelligence (AI):</u> The unauthorized use of AI on an assignment directly violates the MCS Student Code of Conduct; therefore, the student will not receive credit for the work in question. Any work written, developed, created, or inspired by artificial intelligence without explicit permission from the teacher is considered plagiarism.</p>

This syllabus is subject to change.

✂ ----- ***Please cut and return this signed slip by Monday, August 11th, 2025*** ----- ✂

<i>Syllabus Acknowledgement</i>
<p style="text-align: center;">Please sign below to acknowledge the following:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I have read and understand Mrs. Hutchison's classroom policies, procedures, expectations, and syllabus.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">As a student, I agree to abide by the classroom guidelines.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">As a parent, I am aware of the policies/procedures and have discussed them with my child.</p>
Parent/Guardian Name (printed) _____
Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____
Student Name (printed) _____
Student Signature _____ Date: _____
Question/Comments/Concerns