

CAPITOL HILL  
ELA Workshop 8  
2023-2024

\*Teacher: Alexandra Hawksford

\*Room: 2314

\*Prep Time: 2nd hour (10:22-11:11)

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\*Course: ELA Workshop 8

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### Purpose Statement

The purpose of teaching English Language Arts are:

- to ensure that all students develop the skills necessary to access, interpret, evaluate, and synthesize information from a variety of contexts and
- to articulate their understanding in forms appropriate to intended audiences and purposes.

### Texts and Resources

- *Prentice Hall Literature: Grade Eight*
- *Write Source*
- Independent choice readings (novels, short stories, articles, poetry, non-fiction, etc.)
- Short stories and songs selected as mentor texts
- Dystopian/Science Fiction/Fantasy book of choice for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter book clubs
- “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” by William Shakespeare

### Vocabulary

- We will have bi-weekly vocabulary quizzes that focus on challenging words to prepare students for high school and beyond. Our goal is to expand the base vocabulary of each student. We will work on base vocabulary by learning about root words, prefixes, suffixes, and analogies.
- For the weeks we aren’t doing our standard vocabulary lessons, there will be opportunities for vocabulary enrichment (such SAT words, morphemes, analogies, WordMasters, etc.)

### Classroom Expectations

- **Be Prepared:** Bring your iPad to class every day with the keyboard attached and the battery charged. Bring books, pencils, and your ELA notebook to class.
- **Be Punctual:** Be on time to class. Enter the classroom quietly and take your assigned seat.
- **Be Peaceful:** Speak kindly and listen. Wait for your chance to speak and do not interrupt the teacher or other students. Be respectful of people, property, and the learning environment.
- **Be Productive:** Do your work in class and use your class time wisely. Use your given time during the week to complete your assignments. Make it a priority to be active in class discussions and activities.

## 8th Grade Year-long Focus

We will be following the Common Core State Standards that have been adopted by Minnesota. They are comprised of the following five standards:

- Informational Text
- Language
- Writing
- Literature
- Speaking, Viewing, Listening, and Media Literacy

In our ELA Workshop model this year, reading and writing will be an integral part of each unit. There will be ample opportunity for the students to read personal choice books during the school week. Our reading framework has three distinct goals: to increase enjoyment in reading, to encourage students to pursue independent reading at appropriately challenging levels, and to improve reading fluency and comprehension. It also allows for teachers to use the student reading time to meet individually with students to provide individual instruction in strategy use as well as higher-order questions to challenge and engage readers. This reading model is designed to enhance, not replace, a solid foundation in language arts including conventions, vocabulary, and writing instruction.

<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>		<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>
Quarter 1	September	Reading Analytically Across Genres: Themes, Archetypes, and Allusions	Understanding and Identifying Theme, Allusion, and Archetype
Quarter 1	October - November	Critical Literacy: Unlocking Contemporary Fiction	Narrative/Memoir
Quarter 2	December - January	Argument Reading: Critical Nonfiction Research Across Text Sets	Position Paper: Research and Argument
Quarter 3	February - March	Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Dystopian Book Clubs	Descriptive Setting Writing and Movie Trailers
Quarter 4	April	Analyzing Poetry: Literary Devices	Poetry
Quarter 4	May - June	Approaching the Classics Through Close Reading, Discussion and Performance: "A Midsummer Night's Dream"	Literary Essay: Analyzing Craft and Theme Through Characters

**Quarter Book Projects:** Each student will complete a book project at the end of each quarter. Projects are based on books the students have personally selected to read. We have a limited amount of time that we read in class during the week, so it's highly recommended that students are reading every day for a minimum of 25 minutes outside of class.