

8th Grade English Language Arts
Rolling Hills Middle School 2017-18
Mrs. Frugoli

Instructor Information: Mrs. Ethyn Frugoli

Email: efrugoli@campbellusd.org

Office Hours:

If a student or parent needs to see me outside of class, please email me so we could make a time to meet.

Course Description:

Language Arts is broken down into two main sections: Readers' Workshop and Writers' Workshop. Every week we will spend a few days working on reading and a few days working on writing skills. Once we begin essays and Exhibition, Fridays will mainly be Writers' Workshop.

Goal of Class:

The predominant purpose of this class-including curriculum, class expectations, and policies- is to prepare students for high school and college. Therefore, the class is designed to mimic and preview the elements of educational courses beyond middle school.

Technology:

This course is designed with Blended Learning and 21st Century Skills in mind. As such, technology will play a predominant role within the curriculum. Mac Books will be used almost daily as most assignments/projects will be completed via digital mediums. Google Classroom, Drive, Docs, and other digital mediums will be used to both send and receive classroom documents, assignments, etc.

Required Materials:

Please see the School Supply List. In addition, students will need the following:

- One binder or **sizable section in a binder** with three dividers (we will label these in class)
 - One notebook designated for Language Arts only. I suggest a 2-3 subject notebook, but students may divide a one subject notebook using post-its, sticky tabs, or the like. College Rule will be the most effective.
 - Loose, lined notebook paper and pen/pencils: I will provide one package of binder paper at the beginning of the year but expect all students to provide their own when said package is depleted. I will have limited spare pens and pencils available...for a price! If a student continually has to ask a peer for binder paper or a writing utensil, participation points will be deducted.
 - Packet of LARGE Index Cards. I suggest the ones that are bound so they stay together but in no means are spiral bound cards a requirement.
 - Independent Reading Book/Source: every class period each student MUST have something to read in his or her backpack: book, comic book, magazine, newspaper etc. (school and age appropriate!!).
- *Random supply checks will happen so all students should be prepared! *

Homework Policy:

I expect all work to be handed in ahead of due dates or, at the latest, the day an assignment is due. Exceptions will be made for EXCUSED absences as outlined in the Student Handbook. It is the responsibility of the student to contact me for any work missed due to an absence. The following deductions will apply to assignments, no matter how big or small, that are turned in late:

- One day late (weekends count as one day) will receive 10% off of the total grade
 - Two days late will receive 50% off of the total grade
 - Three days late and beyond will be an automatic zero with no possibility of makeup or revisions. NO EXCEPTIONS.
 - All missing work due to excused absences must be turned in by the end of the unit
 - Plagiarism: If an assignment, no matter the size or point value, is plagiarized it will be an automatic ZERO with no possibility of a makeup. This includes essays—especially Exhibition essays/projects
- *exceptions can be made, but I can't do anything unless you ask!*

Revision Policy:

Certain writing assignments such as essays and other major writing assignments may be revised and resubmitted once for a higher grade. If a student receives a grade that they are not happy with, I encourage them to come and talk to me so we can discuss the necessary steps that need to be made in order to raise the grade. Tests and quizzes will not be revisable. I will let students know which assignments are eligible for revision.

Grading Policy:

-Students will have at least one major writing assignment (usually an essay) per trimester. I believe thorough and detailed teacher feedback is essential to developing and perfecting writing skills. As such, writing assignments will take longer to return but will always be handed back by the end of the trimester so students have ample time to revise (if applicable) and resubmit.

-If a student misses an assignment as a result of an absence, whether excused or unexcused, I will enter the assignment in the Power School Grade Book as "0M" meaning, as the assignment is missing, the final score will be a "0" **IF THE ASSIGNMENT IS NOT MADE UP IN THE APPROPRIATE TIME FRAME**. It does **NOT** mean the final score is a "0", it merely serves as a placeholder so parents and students will be able to see the effect of the missing assignment on their grade if it is not addressed.

-Power School will be updated every two weeks if not sooner.

Participation and Professionalism Policy:

I expect every student to be an active and RESPECTFUL member of our classroom community. Students' thoughts, point of view, and opinions are absolutely essential to the success of the class and therefore I expect students to share all of these unique qualities with our class in a respectful and professional manner. Each student will start each week with 5 Participation and Professionalism points. Professional behavior will be rewarded with additional points with a maximum of 10 points and unprofessional behavior will result in points being subtracted down to 0 points for the week. Every Friday, I will add up all of additions and subtractions and enter a weekly participation score from 0-10. Professional and respectful behavior includes but is not limited to the following:

- Asking questions, offering responses, and participating in a meaningful way in class discussions
- Coming to class prepared with all class materials. Being unprepared for class (missing homework or materials- especially your Independent Reading Material!) will be an automatic five points off for each occurrence
- Following all Student Handbook rules
- Raising your hand and waiting to be called on before talking (unless we are having an open discussion)
- Respecting all classroom rules, members, instructors and guests, and completing homework on time
- Being in the assigned seat and ready for class to begin when the bell rings. In other words, come to class on time!
- Staying ON TASK. Be an active, present, and respectful member of the classroom.
- Please talk in my class- I encourage you! - But only at appropriate times after being called on and only about the subject at hand
- Taking responsibility for yourself and your education: If a student is absent, they need to get missing work. If they are struggling, need clarification, or need some additional information please come see me for help!
- Respect will rule and permeate our classroom. I will ensure each and every one of my students feels respected. I therefore ABSOLUTELY require students to not only respect me, fellow students, and anyone who may be visiting the classroom, and most of all students must respect themselves.

Grading Scale:

Assessments (tests, quizzes, essays, Exhibition, etc.)	80%
Homework (daily assignments, exit tickets, vocabulary cards, participation)	20%

Please read this outline through again with a parent or guardian and sign below. Then detach this section and hand in.

I _____ have read and understood this course outline.

Student signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____ Date _____