Eighth Grade English Language Arts Syllabus
2014-2015
Cinco Ranch Junior High

Class Purpose
Eighth Grade Language Arts is designed to involve the student in applying reading, writing, listening, speaking, and viewing skills in an independent manner through meaningful interdisciplinary tasks. Students will continue to develop an appreciation for literature through the study of literary elements in contemporary selections. Emphasis is placed on moving from the literal to the abstract in the students’ critical thinking skills and in the use of language.

Course Outline
Unit 1
Reading Focus- Literary Fiction and Literary Non Fiction
Writing Focus- Writing Process, Personal Narrative
Unit 2
Reading Focus- Informational, Expository
Writing Focus- Expository Interpretation
Unit 3
Reading Focus- Poetry, Literary Fiction
Writing Focus- Poetry, Letter Writing
Unit 4
Reading Focus- Drama, Poetry
Writing Focus- Expository
Unit 5
Reading Focus- Persuasion, Procedural, Media Literacy
Writing Focus- Persuasion
Unit 6
Reading Focus- All STAAR tested genres
Writing Focus- Writing for learning
Unit 7
Reading Focus- Literary Fiction
Writing Focus- Imaginative Story

Reader’s and Writer’s Workshop
Workshop is a style of teaching that incorporates guided and independent learning. Workshop begins with a teacher-modeled skill or strategy and is followed by independent student implementation of that strategy. The teacher will then conference with students in a one-on-one or group setting about their progress before students are asked to share or record their ideas.

Supplies
- Students will need two composition notebooks; one for reading, one for writing.
- Pens, Pencils, loose leaf notebook paper
Grading Policy
Grading in ELA will be based on points and weighted using the scale below:

**PRE-AP**
Major (Tests/Projects/Essays) 55% (Minimum 2 per six weeks)
Minor (Quizzes/Readers notebook/Writers notebook) 30% (Minimum 4 per six weeks)
Other (Homework/Class Activities/Reading folder/etc.) 15% (Minimum 6 per six weeks)

**ACADEMIC**
Major (Tests/Projects/Essays) 50% (Minimum 2 per six weeks)
Minor (Quizzes/Readers notebook/Writers notebook) 35% (Minimum 4 per six weeks)
Other (Homework/Class Activities/Reading folder/etc.) 15% (Minimum 6 per six weeks)

*Late work will be accepted one day late for a 70. Failure to turn in a completed assignment will result in a failing grade for that assignment*
*In case of an absence, it is the student’s responsibility to retrieve missed assignments. They are allowed two days for make-up work. Work assigned prior to the absence is due the day the student returns.*

Principles of Success
1. Be polite. (Speak at appropriate times in appropriate ways.)
2. Be prepared. (Have all supplies and completed assignments every single day.)
3. Be prompt. (Be seated when the bell rings.)
4. Show RESPECT. (Follow directions the first time they are given and avoid conduct that interferes with teaching and learning.)
5. ALWAYS DO YOUR BEST!!

Welcome to 8th grade! This year will be fantastic! As you enter your last year of middle school, you will be presented many opportunities that will both challenge and prepare you for high school and beyond. We are excited to be a part of the team that will get you ready for whatever future adventures your life may hold. What do you really want to do in life? Now is the time to consider the possibilities. What you do today matters and will shape the choices you have tomorrow.

Students who attain a high level of skill reading and writing are successful in all curriculums and gain confidence to tenaciously pursue their dreams!

We look forward to a wonderful and exciting school year. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Contact Information
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