

English 8A Course Syllabus

Ms. Emma McGlone

E-mail (preferred method of contact): emcglone@stjeromeschool.org

School Website: stjeromeschool.org

Seasaw: app.seasaw.me



Welcome to English 8A!

Course Overview

English 8A is a course organized around the study of various styles of written and oral communication. Students will learn how to write personal narratives, how-to articles, descriptions, poetry, literary analysis, business letters, and research reports. In addition, students will write persuasive, expository, creative, and argumentative essays. The course emphasizes instruction in the development of clear argumentation, support, and structure of analytical paragraphs and essays. Students will construct multi-paragraph essays that respond to non-fiction texts, analyze literature, and persuade an audience. Analysis is a key skill that students will develop as they explore the significance of a piece of text and the elements of writing that create meaning. Students will also be challenged to grow in their practical language skills through class discussions, formal and informal writing assignments, creative projects, and oral presentations. Students will continue to develop grammar, punctuation, and vocabulary skills.

Course Objectives and Students Learning Outcomes:

Reading

Students will use active reading strategies, close reading, and annotation in order to improve reading comprehension and analysis. English 8A students will read various short stories, non-fiction, and poetry. In addition, students will read a book of choice as part of their weekly Reading Log homework assignment. This requires students to read for 30 minutes each night, write a short summary of what they read, and receive an adult signature.

Writing

Students will construct analytical paragraphs and multi-paragraph essays that respond to non-fiction texts, analyze literature, and persuade an audience. Students will use MLA format.

Speaking and Listening

Students will demonstrate use of appropriate vocabulary and language conventions during small and large group discussions and formal and informal presentations. Students will demonstrate critical thinking and listening skills through note-taking and thoughtful responses to lectures and presentations.

English Language Conventions and Vocabulary Development

Students will expand their understanding of sentence structure, grammar, mechanics, and morphology.

Organizational Skills

Students will use a planner for organizing assignments and due dates. Planners will be checked by Ms. McGlone at the beginning of class every Friday. Students will organize binder, notebooks, and/or a folder in order to ensure their success in the course.

Class Expectations and Values

Students of St. Jerome demonstrate **Good Character** in their actions, thoughts, and words. In order to be successful in this class, a student must consistently show **Respect** and **Responsibility** to themselves and others. In order to create the best environment to support learning, students understand that if what a student is doing hurts someone's heart or interferes with anyone's learning, it cannot be done.

Students demonstrate these values by:

Attending Class

If a student has an excused absence, it is the student's responsibility to make up any notes, assignments, quizzes, or tests within one week of the absence. The student is also responsible for checking the 'What Did I Miss?' bin, where they can find handouts they may have missed.

Being Prepared - Helpful daily materials include:

- Pencils (sharpener/eraser), and a blue/red colored pen for revisions/peer review
- 2 highlighters (any color) and Post-It notes for annotating texts
- Course handouts, silent reading book, English textbook/workbook, and Vocabulary book
- Positive thoughts, kind words, respectful actions, and an open mind

Supporting the Learning Environment

- Be kind to others - Ask yourself: Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it kind?
- Follow directions the first time they are given and help others when possible
- Do your best work, even when it's hard
- Be on time, in your seat, and ready to work before class starts

Academic Honesty Policy

Students are expected to complete assigned work to the best of their abilities, turn in assignments on time, and contribute to the learning environment of the class. Students are also expected to practice academic honesty and responsible digital citizenship. St. Jerome students follow the St. Jerome Code of Conduct, which calls for personal and academic integrity. (see Student Parent Handbook pg. 25).

Academic dishonesty in any form is unacceptable behavior. Cheating places the value of grades over learning and undermines the mission, vision, and values of our school.

All tests, quizzes, reports, in-class assignments, homework, and school-related exams are subject to this policy

Ms. McGlone's professional judgment determines if a violation has occurred. Turnitin.com, an internet-based plagiarism detection program, will be used as one method to check student work for originality and to detect academic dishonesty. Turnitin.com also offers online feedback, peer revision, and rubric grading tools to evaluate student work.

Assignments requiring submission to turnitin.com will not be assigned a grade or credit until they have been uploaded and evaluated. If an assignment is proven to have been plagiarized, parent/guardian will be notified and the student will be given an alternative make-up assignment (see Student Parent Handbook pg. 28).

Graded Categories:

Classwork, homework, and presentations	50%
Participation	30%
Test/quizzes	20%

Some work for this course will be produced in groups. If a member of your group is absent for a presentation or due date, the team is still required to present a thorough, organized, quality product. The absent group member will need to schedule a time with me to present the entire presentation.

Cell Phone Policy

The use of electronic devices often encourages distraction and interferes with classroom engagement, participation, and discussion. For these reasons, students are not allowed to use any cell phone, tablet, or non-school approved laptop while on school grounds (see Student Parent Handbook pg. 28).

Other Class Policies and Expectations:

- E-mail is the quickest and easiest way to get in touch with me.
- Missed work is STUDENT responsibility. Always check Seasaw and ask classmates about missed work. You can find handouts in the "What Did I Miss?" Box.
- Late work is always accepted. However, 2 points will be deducted for each day it is late.
- Restrooms should be used at the beginning of class and lunch.
- Students are expected to work together to keep a clean room. Each student should wipe of his/her table at the end of each class, push in the chair, and check the floor for trash.
- Eating and drinking is allowed in the room, as long as the student cleans up after themselves.

Turn in JUST THIS PAGE. Keep the rest of the syllabus in your folder for future reference.

By signing below, you are affirming that you understand the expectations and policies for English 8A with Ms. McGlone.

Student signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____ Date _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Syllabus Scavenger Hunt Activity

Directions: Read the syllabus and answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What is your teacher's name?
2. What is the best way to contact your teacher?
3. Read the Course Overview, Course Objectives, and Student Learning Outcomes (found on page 1). In 1-2 sentences, answer the following: What content and skills will students be learning in this course?
4. What are the texts we'll be reading this year?
5. Which text or genre are you most excited (or least excited) to read this year and why?
6. What are the seven character traits students at St. Jerome are expected to demonstrate?
7. Which of these traits is most important to you and why?

8. What are 3 main ways students can demonstrate these values?

9. Is there any time that academic dishonesty is acceptable?

10. Whose judgement determines if a violation of St. Jerome academic honesty policy has occurred?

11. The syllabus states that the use of electronic devices tends to encourage distraction and interfere with classroom engagement. Do you agree or disagree and why?

12. What do you believe makes a great teacher?

13. Please add anything here you'd like me to know about you as your teacher. 😊