

English Language Arts Grade 8

September 2024 – June 2025

Course Code: 0001

Alonsa School (204) 767-2168 Teacher: D. Grimstead Day 2,4,6
K. Caumartin Day 1,3

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Course Overview

The purpose of Grade 8 English Language Arts is to have students use the four ELA practices as they speak, listen, read, write, and represent for meaningful purposes to:

- Make sense of themselves, others, and the world (***Language as Sense Making***)
- Explore the purpose of texts and discover new ways of thinking (***Language as Exploration and Design***)
- Investigate important issues and advocate for themselves, their communities, and the environment (***Language as Power and Agency***)
- Use what they know about how language works in meaningful ways for different purposes (***Language as a System***)

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Enhance reading and writing skills
2. Solidify criteria for different writing pieces
3. Increase critical thinking techniques
4. Learning important communication skills with peers
5. Understand the importance of literature
6. Enhance grammar and spelling

Course Components

- Reading and Writing Units (according to year plan)
- "Language Power Now" (grammar, etc.)
- Independent Reading & Writing (building stamina and development of reading for pleasure)
- Journal Writing (prompt response writing)
- Writing Process applications and Usage (brainstorming, pre-writing, drafting, conferencing, revising, editing, published copy)
- Spelling (rules and application)
- Novel Study

Supplies Required by Students for class EVERYDAY

Mrs. Grimstead Room 8 Day 2, 4, 6

1. 4 inch binder + looseleaf + dividers organized into different subcategories:
- > Notes and/or Reference Handouts (front of binder)
 - > Classwork & Assignments
 - > Journal Work /Writer's Workshop
 - > Novel Study Work

Ms. Caumartin Room 9 Day 1,3

- > Spelling
- > Language Power Now Book (Grammar)

2. Regular supplies: Blue Pens/ Red or Coloured Pens for revision and editing
 Note: NO GEL PENS for regular writing or hand-in evaluations
 Highlighters, Pencil Crayons, Coloured Markers
 Pencils / Erasers/ Glue/Scissors
 Pencil Case or Containers for supplies
 USB for storing on-going writing files.

Classroom Expectations

- **Attendance and Absences**
 - * Students are expected to attend class regularly.
 - * Students who arrive to class 5 minutes after the bell or later will be marked as LATE.
 - * Students who arrive within 15 minutes or less left in class will be marked as ABSENT.
 - * Students who are absent for class are responsible for obtaining missed work.
Students are responsible for checking their mailboxes in Mrs. Grimstead's Room 8 and only in the morning 8 – 8:45 am or noon 12:05-12:45.
- **Commit** to making the classroom a safe space, including respecting the opinions, ideas, and culture of all others.
- **Respect** the right of all others to learn in an environment that is free of distractions. Everyone has the right to an education but not the freedom to impede/prevent others from receiving that education.
 - *Students will be accountable for their behaviour and must not prevent the teacher from giving the lesson OR interfere with anyone's else opportunity to learn.
 - *Ask permission of the teacher at all times.
- **Use Class Time wisely and complete all assignments and homework on time.**
- **Electronic Devices**
 - * **Cell Phones** will be placed in the designated charging station area/box at the **BEGINNING** of class. Turn the ringer off. If you want to plug it in you may do so if you have **YOUR OWN** charging cord.
 - ***Refusing to comply** will result in the phone being confiscated for the period.
 - *For those students who choose to take your chances and keep your phone in your possession and decide to use it in class or during a bathroom break it will be confiscated till 3:25 pm or given to the office regarding further action.
 - * **PARENTAL NOTIFICATION**
 - * **ELA 8 classes occur Period 4 at 1-2:12 pm on Days 1,2,3,4, 6.**
 - Parents Please Note: Usually the first 30 minutes of class are devoted to lesson instructions, in-class discussions, assignment discussions, and/or silent reading.**
 - Parents will NOT** be notifying or texting **DURING** class time.
 - Parents will notify the Office of any messages to be given to you or you can check messages at break 2:12 pm.
 - Emergency Message(s)** from Parent/Guardian - Office will be contacted and **only that type of message will allow the student to go to the office DURING** class time.

ASSESSMENT

> Will be based on a variety of activities that cater to the various learning styles of students.

Methods of Evaluation

Individual and group research, oral presentations, textbook exercises, journals, novel study, class discussions, independent reading activities, individual participation in daily classroom activities, rubrics, quizzes, unit tests, and projects.

Both peer and self-assessment will be used on some assignments throughout the year.

Note: Students cannot re-write tests or quizzes.

Major projects will be accompanied with a set of evaluation guidelines or rubrics to help you put forth your best work. It is **YOUR** responsibility to examine the guidelines and assignment criteria **IN ADVANCE** to ensure that you understand what is required of you.

Remember, if you need clarification on an assignment/evaluation, chances are, that some of your peers have the same questions, so PLEASE ASK!

Method of Assessment for Academic Achievement

Students will receive an overall percentage (100%) **AND** a Numerical Scale of 1-4 :

ND (not demonstrated), 1 (50-59%), 2 (60-69%), 3 (70-79%), 4 (80-100%)

for the following Academic Achievement areas:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1. Reading Comprehension | 3. Writing Communication |
| 2. Listening and Viewing Comprehension | 4. Speaking and Representing Communication |
| 5. Critical Thinking | |

Students will also be assessed on the following Learning Behaviours:

1. Personal Management Skills 2. Active Participation in Learning 3. Social Responsibility

Assessment Guidelines

> Assessments/work are due at the **Beginning** of the class on the **Due Date**. If an extension is needed, the student must discuss this with the teacher **ahead** of the due date.

Extensions will be granted at the **teacher's discretion**, for valid and legitimate reasons only (ex. Illness).

> Late assignments will receive a zero until completed. If non-completion of assignments becomes a "pattern", teachers will communicate with parents or set-up parent/teacher/student conferences to discuss late/incomplete work and set-up a schedule for completion.

> For all students, if the guidelines set out for completion are not fully followed or handed in by the given due date, a deduction in marks will apply. **Upon teacher discretion a maximum of 5% may be deducted for every day the assignment is not turned in. If the assignment is not turned in after one (1) week, the assignment will receive a mark of zero.**

Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty/Cheating

"Students must understand that the tests/exams they complete and the assignments they submit as evidence of learning must be their OWN work and the cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated..." (Provincial Assessment Policy, K-12, Department of Education).

Please note: AI generated work is considered as academic dishonesty.

See attached sheet for consequences that could occur if academic dishonesty is discovered.

ELA Year at a Glance

Note: Tentative Schedule that is subject to change

Changes made at teacher's discretion and/or due to unforeseen circumstances throughout school year.

Units of Study September 2024-June 2025

September-October

ELA Skills Unit ~ Focus: Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening Skills

Short Story ~ Focus: Short Story Elements, Mood, Theme, Foreshadowing, Personal Connections

Novel Study Unit ~ Focus: Inference, Cite Textual Evidence, Theme, Summarization, Essay Writing

November – December

Persuasive Writing ~ Focus: Elements of Persuasive Writing, Figurative Language, Propaganda Techniques

January – February

Speech Unit ~ Focus: Analyze Historic Speeches, How to Introduce, Illustrate, Elaborate Central Idea, Author's Purpose and Point of View, Usage of Persuasive Techniques

March – April

Poetry Unit ~ Focus: Features of Poetry, Close Reading, Poem Analysis, Figurative Language

May – June

Memoir Unit ~ Focus: Mentor Texts, Develop Topic Ideas, Writing Process, Author's Craft, Show vs Telling, Dialogue

NOTE: Spelling and Grammar work will on-going throughout the school year.