**I. Course Overview**

 **Students in 8th grade English/Language Arts practice and perfect their language skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) using the PA Common Core Standards and HMH Into Literature curriculum**. Learning is paced over five themed units, each culminating in an extended writing task and unit test. Throughout the year students’ progress will be measured using the NWEA Map Assessments to ensure they are prepared to take ELA PSSA in May.

**II. Contact Information**

 Miss Domowicz is best contacted by **email** (sdomowicz@eriesd.org), but can be reached by **telephone** (814/874-6500), **ParentSquare**, or **Schoology Message**. Please expect regular progress reports, updates, reminders, announcements, etc. by post and/or ParentSquare.

**←**

Use this code to access ParentSquare!

**←**

Use this code to access the InfiniteCampus Parent Portal!

**III. Office Hours/Extra Help**

 **Miss Domowicz is available for office hours every Tuesday, from 3:10 to 3:40 p.m., or by appointment after school.** During Office Hours, students may check grades, complete absent/late/missing or do-over assignments, and generally get extra help with any academic or behavior challenges.

**IV. Text & Materials**

 **Every student will be issued one consumable copy each of the 8th grade textbook (HMH Into Literature) and grammar workbook, as well as a Chromebook/charger.** Some assignments (diagnostic tests, unit tests, writing tasks, etc.) must be completed digitally on the Chromebooks, per district policy. Textbooks that are lost/destroyed must be reimbursed, so both books must be kept in the classroom. **All texts will be available online through the HMH Ed** for students who need to work outside of the classroom or school day.

 **On most days, students will be working on paper/pencil**. During those lessons, student Chromebooks will be kept inside a locked charging cart during class time. This is to reduce screentime and increase engagement, as well as practice basic skills to foster better learning habits, such annotating text and collaborative discussion.

 **Students will be issued the following items, which will be stored in the classroom for daily use**:

* a binder with labeled tabs
* a three-ring pouch
* writing utensils (a pencil, a blue pen, & a highlighter)

**Students may not take their binders home, as lost or destroyed items will not be replaced by the school**. Since students should have pens, pencils, and highlighters stored in their binders, they are expected to have those items for class daily. Used writing utensils can be traded in for a new like item, but will not be issued to replace lost/destroyed items.

 **All assignments, texts, materials, etc. will be posted digitally on Schoology, HMH, or Writable. Students can access these items at any time if they need to complete unfinished assignments at home.** Students may take home individual assignments to complete at home, but are expected to keep graded assignments in their binder. Each quarter, binders will be checked at midterms and at the end of the quarter. Students will “clean out” their binders quarterly and their graded work will be collected and filed to create a student portfolio. Portfolios will be returned to students at the end of the school year.

**VI. Progress Reports**

 **Student grades are recorded in Infinite Campus, updated weekly, and available around the clock**. Printed progress reports will be provided at midterm each quarter, or by request. Please check each graded assignment for flags or comments, then follow up on any additional questions by email, phone or ParentSquare/Schoology Message.

**VII. Grades & Grading Weights**

 Quarter grades are designed to reflect students’ learning, progress towards academic goals, and work ethic over the course of the quarter/school year. **Final grades are calculated as an average of the four quarter grades; students must achieve a minimum of 65% as their final averaged grade to pass for the year.**

 **Quarter grades are calculated using the following weighted categories:**

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| --- |
| CATEGORIES & GRADING WEIGHTS |
| Do Nows/ Bellringers | 10% | Students will start each class period with a daily Do Now designed to foster a variety of vocabulary skills. Students are expected to enter the classroom and immediately begin work on their Do Now, without prompting. Do Nows are worth one point daily and will be checked four times throughout the quarter during binder checks (see IC for due dates). Students have class time to complete their Do Nows, and late Do Nows will not be graded.  |
| Grammar Practice | 10% | Each day, students are assigned a mini-lesson and exercise from the grammar workbook. Each daily assignment will be worth one point and workbooks will be checked for completion four times per quarter (see IC for due dates). Students have class time to complete their grammar practice and late grammar exercises will not be graded.  |
| Classwork | 60% | Classwork consists of any assignment students are expected to complete during class time, such as worksheets, activities, discussions, projects, binder checks, etc. This represents the bulk of student’s time and effort, and therefore the bulk of their grade.  |
| Assessments (Tests & Writing Tasks) | 20% | Throughout the year, students will take 3 NWEA Map tests, 4 HMH unit tests, and complete 5 formal writing assignments on Writable. These assignments will be graded using a rubric and recorded in this section of the gradebook. Most tests must be completed during a specific window, per district policy, and unfinished tests will be marked missing, as they are unscorable. |

**VIII. Make-Up Work, Late work, MISSING WORK, & Do-Overs**

**Make-Up Work**: **when a student is absent, they are responsible for completing any/all work missed due to absence.** Students are permitted two days per day absent to complete this work before it becomes “late.”

**Late Work**: **when students are present and working during class time but need additional time to complete classwork or writing assignments, they are expected to finish and turn in that work, either at home or during office hours, within five school days of the original due date**. Miss Domowicz may extend that window at her discretion, but will not shorten it.

* Assignments not turned in on the due date will be marked missing, then marked “turned in” (T) and flagged as “late” (L) in Infinite Campus once they are turned in. These assignments will not be docked points, as students are encouraged to prioritize doing work *well*, over doing it quickly.
* Many late flags may be an indicator that a student needs additional support during office hours.
* Late Do Nows/Bellringers, grammar, and tests will not be accepted/graded after the allotted in-class time

**Missing Work:** **any** **assignments that have not been turned in will be marked as “missing” (M) in the gradebook after four school days.**

* This counts as a numeric zero toward grade calculation
* Missing assignments may still be completed, turned in for full credit at Miss Domowicz’s discretion
* Students are encouraged to make arrangements with Miss Domowicz to complete missing assignments during office hours or their own time

**Do-Overs**: **students may “do-over” an assignment once** **if they received a poor score** (unless the assignment was flagged for academic dishonesty; see academic integrity policy). Students are encouraged to do assignments well, rather than quickly, with extra emphasis on following directions and answering the questions accurately.