**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 or do-over assignments, and/or seek extra help with academic or behavior challenges.

**IV. Attendance**

 Students are expected to attend class daily, per their school schedule. **Students in attendance are present AND participating in their education**, including but not limited to class discussions, Zoom meetings, group or individual assignments, peer editing, testing, etc. Being an active participant has a positive impact on student’s learning and grades. **In the event of absence, please provide a signed excuse to the attendance office, either on paper or by email** (svattendance@eriesd.org).

**V. Text & Materials**

 **Every student will be issued one consumable copy of the 8th grade textbook (HMH Into Literature), grammar workbook, and a Chromebook/charger.** It is strongly recommended that students keep their textbooks and grammar workbooks in the classroom, where students will also have a file to keep their work, both in-progress and graded.

 **Each day, students are expected to be prepared for class with: a writing utensil, their textbook/grammar workbook, and a charged Chromebook.** All assignments will be available in paper and digitally (via Schoology), but certain tasks (unit tests, growth measures, etc.) must be completed on Chromebooks per district policy.

 Additional supplies are available for use (pencils, paper, crayons, scissors, etc.) or purchase (mechanical pencils, binders, etc.) in the classroom, as needed. Students may also check out books from the classroom and school library.

**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:**

|  |
| --- |
| CATEGORIES & GRADING WEIGHTS |
|   | 15% | Students will start each class period with a Do Now/Bellringer. Work will be checked daily, but recorded as a weekly grade in Infinite Campus. Students are to begin their Do Now promptly when they enter the classroom, without prompting from the teacher. Do Nows must be completed during the allotted class time or they will be marked as zeroes.  |
| Classwork | 50% | Classwork consists of any assignment students are expected to complete during class time, such as worksheets, activities, discussions, projects, etc. This represents the bulk of student’s time and effort, and therefore the bulk of their grade.  |
| Writing | 25% | These assignments include grammar workbook practice, Writable Skills Ladder tasks, or PSSA-style text-dependent analysis, which students will use to hone their writing skills throughout each unit as they build toward the culminating Unit Writing Task.  |
| Assessments | 10% | Students will take eight graded assessments throughout the year (5 unit tests and 3 NWEA MAP tests to monitor reading proficiency and growth). Unit tests will be graded for correctness; students will receive a participation grade for MAP assessments.  |

**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 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 four school days of the original due date**.

* Late assignment will be flagged as late (L) in Infinite Campus, but 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 and Assessments 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 and turned in for 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).

**IX. Academic Honesty/Academic Dishonesty**

 Students are expected to turn in assignments that honestly reflect their own thinking and work. **Assignments that appear to have been plagiarized in any way (copied from any source, generated by AI, in someone else’s handwriting, etc.) will be assigned zeros and ineligible for a do-over.** Assignments flagged for academic dishonesty will be marked as cheated (CH) in Infinite and referred to the office. Repeated incidents may result in additional consequences, up to and including course failure.

**X. Behavior Expectations**

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| **Expectations** | **Entering the Classroom** | **Teacher Led Instruction/ Independent Work** | **Small Group Work** | **Leaving Class** |
| **Be Responsible** | * Arrive before the bell
* Be seated immediately upon entering the classroom
* Start Do Now/Bell Ringer/ Journal
* Electronic devices off and put away.
* Follow teacher routines and procedures
 | * Listen to, read, and follow all instructions
* Ask for help when needed
* Complete all work
* Use materials/ technology appropriately
* Monitor grade on Infinite Campus, and finish/turn in any missing or late assignments
 | * Listen to, read, and follow all instructions
* Ask for help when needed
* Do your fair share
* Complete all work
* Use materials/ technology appropriately
 | * Submit finished work
* Clean up your area
* Wait to be dismissed by teacher
* Take all your belongings

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| **Be Respectful** | * Walk
* Use courteous language, such as “please,” “thank, you,” and “excuse me”
* Give others personal space
* Hands to yourself
 | * Listen when others speak
* Use courteous language, such as “please,” “thank you,” and “excuse me”
* Participate positively
* Use voice level 0 or 1
 | * Listen when others speak
* Use courteous language, such as “please,” “thank you,” and “excuse me”
* Participate positively
* Use voice level 2
 | * Walk
* Use courteous language, such as “please,” thank you,” and “excuse me”
* Give others personal space
* Hands to yourself
 |
| **Be Ready** | * Bring materials to class:  writing utensil, charged Chromebook, and binder
* Be alert and aware of your surroundings
 | * Bring materials to class:  writing utensil, charged Chromebook, and binder
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 | * Bring materials to class:  writing utensil, charged Chromebook, and binder
* Be alert and aware of your surroundings
 | * Bring materials to class:  writing utensil, charged Chromebook, and binder
* Be alert and aware of your surroundings
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