Virginia Fitzgerald 2018-2019

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  + connected to district/West website - [http://www.rochester.k12.mi.us/pages/333/west](http://www.rochester.k12.mi.us/pages/333/west%20)
    - under School Menus on Toolbar/Classroom News in drop down/ Mrs. Fitzgerald

Course Outline - 8th grade Language Arts

**Texts**

* Holt McDougall *Literature grade 8 -*  issued to students and available online (link on website)
* **Possible novels include** - *Fever 1793, Touching Spirit Bear, Ender's Game, The Outsiders, Nothing But the Truth, The Outsiders,* and the novels of our author for Authors in April

**Topics of Study**

**Literary Analysis**

* Genre
* Plot Structure - Exposition, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Resolution
* Conflict
* Making inferences
* Character development
* Point of View and Reliability of Narrator
* Theme
* Setting
* Mood
* Imagery
* Suspense
* Symbolism
* Motif
* Poetic Techniques - stanza, rhythm, rhyme, word choice, stylistic devices
* Nonfiction rhetorical analysis

**Writing** - personal narrative, literary analysis, comparative essay, persuasive essay, research paper

* Structure
  + Effective introductions
  + Clear statement of topic/thesis statement
  + Clear and effective organization and flow of areas of support and the evidence and reasoning within those areas of support
  + Effective conclusions
* Ideas - main ideas and areas of support developed by evidence and reasoning
  + Accurate
  + Powerful
  + Clear
  + Paraphrasing and use of quotations as evidence
  + Parenthetical citation - correct information provided in the correct form
* Style
  + Word choice - powerful, purposeful, correct connotation v. denotation
  + Sentence variety
  + Tone
* Awareness of Purpose and Audience

**Grammar**

* Parts of Speech
* Types of Sentences
* Avoiding Run-ons and Fragments
* Commas
* Semi-colons
* Colons
* Capitalization
* Homonyms
* Word Study - prefixes, roots, suffixes

**Grading**

* A total point grading system will be used.
* Grades will be divided into two types: checkpoints (10 points each) and final assessments, such as projects, tests, papers, and speeches (40 points each).
  + Checkpoints are designed to mark how a student is doing as we move toward a goal of achieving a skill.
  + Checkpoints may be redone before the final assessment on that skill. In order to redo a checkpoint, a student must make an appointment with me for at lunch or before or after school within a day of the work being returned and before the final assessment of that skill. The redo will be largely . The student must be timely and flexible with their availability.
  + Final grades will not be redone.
  + If a student score below a C on a final grade, he or she may meet with me with the nest couple days after the work is returned to discuss a plan to show understanding of basic ideas missed and a time frame in which that understanding must be demonstrated. Parents will be asked to sign this plan. If the planned work is completed within the time set by the plan and reflects the needed understanding, the grade will be raised to a C.

**Blank grades in Synergy**

* If a grade is blank in Synergy, it means the work was collected but not yet graded; an NHI will appear if work was not handed in.

**Late Work**

* Students must fill out a Late Work Contract , get it signed by me, and take it home that night to be signed by parents if they are not handing in an assignment being collected.
* This will serve as immediate notification to parents.
* The contract needs to be returned signed the next day or a detention will be given for failure to communicate with parents as requested.
* Late work will be accepted and marked down 10% to reflect that we had discussed the work prior to the student completing it.
* After three late contracts have be completed, I will request a meeting with parents and the counselor to come up with a plan for helping the student change this habit.

**Missed Work due to an Absence**

* Absent students are given the required time for make-ups, as stated by district policy.
* Absent student should check the calendar on my website and examine materials posted.

**Suggested Supplies**

* ***8 folders with pockets all of the same color dedicated just to this class* -** A table of contents for the material in a unit will be displayed for students to guide them in keeping this material in their folder in order for study during a unit.Student will be encouraged to take a folder home at the end of the unit and store it, then bring a new folder for the new unit. The stored folders will then be safely stored for review for semester finals.
* ***lined loose-leaf paper***
* ***pencil***s - I have excellent hand-held sharpeners in the room. I get mine from the art store for $1.50. It makes a great point and is quiet. Students could also buy one and thus have to buy plastic, throw-away pencils and always have the ability to sharpen their own in the pencil pouch!
* ***red checking pens***
* **ultra-fine Sharpies**
* **a thick Sharpie**
* **double-stick tape or glue**
* **a good eraser that won’t smear**
* **colored pencils (NOT markers)**
* **index cards**
* **a paper grocery bag for covering their book**
* **Kleenex to donate to the class**

These are just suggested.

Rochester Schools must supply all necessary supplies for curricular course work if a student is unable. This does not mean that a student should show up with nothing. Students should let me or a counselor know if they have any problem with supplies before supplies are needed. The necessary supplies will be provided based on the need shown, then the student will bring them to class daily as do the other students.

It is important for students to bring their supplies to class either way for three reasons:

* Bringing their supplies builds responsibility.
* Students who come to class without supplies disrupt our ability to move into work while we get them set up, either asking me to stop and get them the needed materials or taking them from other students.
* The district gives teachers a limited budget to stock the room with supplies for all the school hours of the year, so supplies taken by students take away from that budget or the budget of the teacher herself or the other students.