Virginia Fitzgerald 2018-2019

* email - [vfitzgerald@rochester.k12.mi.us](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CV%20A%5CDocuments%5C5%20Language%20Arts%5Cvfitzgerald%40rochester.k12.mi.us)
* website - <http://vfitzwest.weebly.com/>
	+ connected to district/West website - [http://www.rochester.k12.mi.us/pages/333/west](http://www.rochester.k12.mi.us/pages/333/west%20)
		- on first page on "Classroom Resources" Symbaloo

Course Outline - 8th grade Language Arts

**Texts** -Holt McDougall *Literature Grade 8 -*  class set and available online

* Click here for link to [textbook](https://my.hrw.com/) - Username - fgump9900h (districtMicrosoft ID + 'h' ,password - holtstudents
* **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 system will be used
* students will be given rubrics for writing and projects and will also have input into those rubrics.

**Blank grades v. NHI**

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

**Late Work**

* If a student has not completed an assignment , I have them fill out a Late Work Contract to hand in instead.
* I will scan this and email it to the email addresses on file as an attachment, with the goal of the contract motivating the student to complete the assignment and parents being able to support the student. It is not punishment.
* Late work will be accepted and marked down 10% , as we have often discussed the material and so the work will no longer reflect individual thinking.
* I am also trying to help students develop the habit of turning work in on time, as the high school policy is 50% for one day late, no credit if later than one day.

**Missed Work due to an Absence**

* Absent students are given the required time for make-ups, as stated by district policy.
* Absent student should go to my website, read the description what was done in the class they missed and examine materials posted. They should not arrive the next day and ask, "What did we do?", when they had the ability to find out.

**Extra Copies**

* Extra copies are always available in the classroom.
* The website has most material available for download, exceptions usually are due the paper size being too large for a home printer.

**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.