

Standards and Expectations: English 8

Ms. Melinda J. Ditzell

2019-2020

Curriculum

The following major literary pieces will be included in this year's curriculum:

- *Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt
- *That Was Then, This Is Now* by S.E. Hinton
- *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
- *Inside Out & Back Again* by Thanhha Lai

Other elements of the curriculum will include:

- Poetry
- Drama
- Short Stories
- Non-Fiction
- Spelling
- Grammar
- Vocabulary
- Writing
- NYS Modules and Common Core Curriculum
- Interdisciplinary Projects
- ELA 8 Exam Preparation

Grading Policy

Exams/Writing/Projects	30%
Quizzes	25%
Homework/Classroom Assignments	25%
Class Participation	20%

Homework Policy

In order to be fair to students who work hard to get assignments handed in on time, homework that is not complete and turned in at the time collected will not receive full credit. Homework not turned in by two days after the due date will receive a zero. (Certain assessments and projects may NOT be given extra time.) The late point deductions are as follows:

By the end of due date	-15
One school day late	-20
Two school days late	-30

Occasionally there will be assignments that will NOT be accepted late. If this is the case, the students will be informed when the assignment is given.

Absence Policy

In the case of an absence, I will collect assignments and expect students to check in with me immediately upon return. Students will have no more than two days to make up work and other assessments but should be weary of the fact that taking the two full days may cause them to fall behind even more. Work may not be accepted if the student's absence is illegal.

Homework that was due when the student was absent will be expected at the beginning of class upon their return to receive full credit.

Music lessons and extra-curricular activities *are not* given a two-day make up period. Students should see me *before* missing class to find out what to make up and to turn in homework. Homework will still be expected at the regular class time.

Extra-Credit Policy

Extra-credit is a privilege that is awarded only to students who put forth a great deal of effort; *it will not be used as a replacement for homework*. Students who are unsuccessful due to lack of participation in classroom activities and assignments will not be given extra-credit. Extra-credit opportunities will be given periodically to classes as a whole and individually at my discretion.

Classroom Rules

- The rules in the Prattsburgh Central School District's Code of Conduct will be enforced in this classroom.
- Students must be prepared daily with texts, writing utensils, planner, and homework at the time class begins. Students will not be permitted to get these materials from their lockers after it starts. Preparation counts toward the classroom participation grade.
- Respect everyone, including the teacher, any speakers, other students, themselves, or any "group" of people. Derogatory remarks directed toward any of the before mentioned will not be tolerated.
- Students are expected to take responsibility for their own actions and grades. Students must see us if they are concerned about their grade before it is too late.
- Personal devices are no longer allowed in the classroom as students are now assigned with a school-distributed device to be used for assignments. Students must place their devices in a basket upon entering the classroom. Devices that are not turned in at the beginning of class will be given to the principal.
- Plagiarism (cheating of any kind) will result in a zero. Students who supply their classmates with their work will also be held accountable. Per the Student Code of Conduct, a loss of credit for the entire year's course may also be applicable.

Parent/Guardian Questions and Concerns

Please feel free to contact me about questions and concerns regarding your student's progress or academic well-being.

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