



King George Middle School

English 8 Advanced/TAG Syllabus



Course description: *The Grade 8 English program provides instruction in all aspects of language arts, including reading, writing, and speaking. Literary elements, including character, plot, theme, point of view, mood and figurative language will be analyzed in a variety of narrative text and poetry. In addition, author's purpose, tone, text structure, and viewpoint will be evaluated in informational text including articles, essays, and speeches. Reading skills will emphasize comprehension and critical thinking. The writing process will be utilized to produce expository and persuasive writing with attention to composition, word choice, and mechanics. Students will take the English SOL Reading and the English SOL Writing tests.*

Teachers

Marianne Donaldson mdonaldson@kgcs.k12.va.us

Haley Fisher hfisher@kgcs.k12.va.us

Carrie Nunez cnunez@kgcs.k12.va.us

Teacher websites are accessible from the KGMS homepage and contain information on how to receive updates

Textbook: College Board; Springboard Grade 8, students will also be reading a variety of texts

Grading Categories / Weights		KGCS Grading Scale	
9-Week Test	15%	A	100-90
Tests/Major Writing	25%	B	89-80
Quizzes	15%	C	79-70
Checks for Understanding	30%	D	69-60
Independent Reading	15%	F	59 and below
<i>Data - Reported but excluded from final grade</i>		MyAccess Papers will be graded out of 6 points. For example, if a student scores a 5.0 out of 6, their score will be an 83%.	

Materials Needed (same as supply list posted online):

- PERSONAL READING MATERIALS DAILY
- Binder (with dividers if used for other classes)
- Red, Blue/Black Pens, Pencils
- Loose leaf paper
- Pocket folder(s)
- Notecards
- Composition notebook

Students should bring their materials daily to class.

Make Up Work - Students are allowed 5 working days to complete work after absences.

Late Work - Students are expected to complete all work assigned in class. Unfinished work is assigned for homework and/or Foxes Den. A zero will be entered after 5 days, but missing work will be accepted until grades are due at the end of the quarter.

Extra Credit - No extra credit will be offered in language arts. Students will be offered many opportunities to demonstrate mastery of the English SOLs. Grades will be reflective of student achievement.

Reassessment - Students who score below a 70 on tests may request an opportunity for reassessment. The higher grade will be recorded in the gradebook. Retakes are not available for 9-Week Tests.

Technology - Students will be using the internet to access the online textbook, Google Classroom, and other resources. If your child does not have internet access at home, please make sure to communicate this to the teacher so that other arrangements can be made.

*In accordance with the BYOD policy in King George County Schools, students will be permitted to use personal devices during school for instructional purposes as specified by the teacher.

Independent Reading - Students will be reading 16 self-selected books during the year to increase their reading motivation, vocabulary, and stamina. A minimum of 1 hour each week will be provided during school, and the rest of the reading will be completed as a standing homework assignment. Students are expected to have their self-selected reading book with them at all times. Additional information will be provided during the first week of school.

- Quarter 1: 4 books required, one of which must be a biography, autobiography, or memoir
- Quarter 2: 4 books required, one of which must be an informational text or functional
- Quarter 3: 4 books required, one of which must be a book of poetry/mythology
- Quarter 4: 4 books required, one of which was made into a movie or television show

In addition to the independent reading project, students will also be participating in class novel studies. These books will be provided in the classroom and may include novels from the attached list.

Library - Students have access to our fully stocked library and our knowledgeable librarian. Students will visit the library as a class twice a month. Students may also visit the library on their own time: before school, during Foxes Den, and after school. Students should utilize the library when in need of independent reading materials- there is no excuse to not have a book.

Writing - In addition to less formal classroom writing, students can expect to study the craft of writing. We will focus on mechanics, as well as written expression. Students will be writing multiple five paragraph essays. These essays will be persuasive or expository. Students will receive explicit instruction on the writer process from brainstorming to final product.

My Access & NOREDINK - Eighth grade students will have additional opportunities to practice essay writing and grammar skills in preparation for the Writing SOL test using an online writing program. Students will receive guidance during prewriting activities, and they will often begin the essays on computers during class to allow for teacher feedback and conferencing. Completion of the essays will sometimes be assigned for homework in the event of student absence. Students may utilize Foxes Den if needed. The computer program scores the essays, and opportunities for revision and resubmission are offered.

Oral Communication - Once per quarter, students will prepare a book talk to be presented to a small group of peers during book discussions. Students will be evaluated according to the Communication Standards of Learning for 8th grade. (SOL 8.2).

Google Classroom & Remind - Our class will be utilizing Google classroom to complete many assignments this year. Some teachers may also choose to use Remind as well. There is an option for parents/guardians to be added to the classroom. Please watch for this information during the first week of school and return the signed form if you would likely to receive daily or weekly updates and reminders.