Eighth Grade English Syllabus

2019-2020

Mrs. Jennifer Chittaro

***Lakeview Academy is committed to excellence in the personal growth and academic development of the college bound student through a partnership of school, family, and community.***

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**TEXTS:** *Warriner's Handbook*, Second Course – Holt, Rinehart and Winston

*Elements of Literature*, Second Course – Holt, Rinehart and Winston

**OVERVIEW:**  The purpose of this course is to study literature, grammar, and composition. Literary devices will be taught and vocabulary will be emphasized through the study of novel texts. Students will develop their understanding of the writing process for a variety of purposes through specific writing projects. Grammar will be studied independently and skills will be emphasized throughout the entire literature curriculum.

**READING:** Our reading for the year will consist of 2-3 novels, supplemented by short stories, poetry, non-fiction, and other forms of literature from the literature textbook. The novels will be distributed to students at the beginning of the unit, and students are expected to complete all reading assignments. Reading comprehension and completion will be assessed through pop and planned reading quizzes and tests.

**MAJOR WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:** Writing skills will be developed through specific guided instruction. A minimum of four essays are required (completed, edited, proofread, and final copy). At a minimum, these will consist of a book report, research report (expository) with a works cited page, literary analysis essays, and character analysis essay. Instructions, guidelines, and specific dates will be given in class. MLA formatting and style will be taught and used.

**ACTIVITIES:** Activities will include a combination of class work, discussions, homework, quizzes, test, and projects that address various learning styles. All activities are designed to help students grow toward full language maturity and develop a sense of community as they work together and share their perceptions.

**GRADING:**  **MAJOR** (Tests, Compositions, Projects): 55%

**MINOR** (Daily In-Class Assignments, Quizzes): 35%

**HOMEWORK**: 10%

\* **FINAL EXAM** (First and Second Semester) – 20% of overall grade

**LATE WORK:** All work (major, minor, and homework) turned in late is 20% off **per day**.

**MAKE-UP WORK:** Make-up work assignments are to be completed within **two days** of returning from an excused absence.

**MATERIALS:**

* Two inch 3-ring binder or one section of a larger binder (2 inch or more) with loose-leaf paper
* 8-tab dividers (Bell Ringers, Grammar, Vocabulary, Notes, Assessments, Writing, Projects, Homework)
* Variety of highlighter colors for annotating (minimum 5 colors)

**CLASSROOM AND STUDENT EXPECTATIONS:**

1. Be respectful of yourself and others
2. Be prepared for class every day
3. Be positive; attitude matters

**HONOR CODE:**

*Lakeview students will not lie, cheat, or steal, or approve of those who do.*

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

* Get to class on time with all supplies – ***No trips back to the locker!***
* Have homework completed on time
* Communicate with us. Let us know if you need extra help or clarification on an assignment. \**Note – I would rather have you (the student) communicate with me first before I hear from a parent or guardian.*
* Uphold the Honor Code: "Lakeview students do not lie, cheat, steal, or approve of those who do."
* No cell phones – These will be taken up and turned in to the front office.

**CONSEQUENCES:** When a student fails to meet one of the class expectations, the following consequences will result. As needed, we may implement these consequences in a different order.

1. Warning
2. Meeting with teacher after class
3. Parent contact
4. After school detention / Referral to MS Director
5. Removal from classroom

**GRADING SCALE:**

**A**  90 – 100 ***(\*Students MUST earn a 90 or above to be placed in a ninth grade Honors Literature class.)***

**B**  82 – 89

**C**  75 – 81

**D**  70 – 74

**Failing** Under 70

**FIRST SEMESTER:**

Grammar, Vocabulary, Spelling (all ongoing)

Short Stories (plot, setting, character, theme, style, conflict)

Nonfiction (autobiography, biography, memoir)

Writing (Book Report, Literary Analysis, Character Analysis)

**SHORT STORIES:**

“A Retrieved Reformation” by O. Henry

“Flowers for Algernon” by Daniel Keyes

“The Monkey’s Paw” by W. W. Jacobs

“The Wise Old Woman” retold by Yoshiko Uchida

**NOVELS:**

*Tuesdays With Morrie* by Mitch Albom, *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien

**SECOND SEMESTER:**

Grammar, Vocabulary, Spelling (all ongoing)

Poetry (devices, epics, sonnet, ode, elegy, free-verse, symbolism)

Drama (types and elements of drama, dialogue, conflict, character)

Writing (Poetry Explication, Research Report)

**DRAMA:**

*The Diary of Ann Frank*

**NOVELS:**

*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

*\*Updated August 2018*

**Sign below and turn in to Mrs. Chittaro, and file the entire syllabus in your English binder.**

***I have read the 8th grade English syllabus and classroom expectations.***

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*STUDENT SIGNATURE DATE*

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*PARENT SIGNATURE DATE*

*TEACHER INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*