Ms. Caitlyn Schwebach

8th Grade English Language Arts

Brandon Valley Middle School

2020-2021

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Welcome to 8th grade English Language Arts! I am so excited to have you in my class this year! My goal is to make all students feel more confident and find great success in their reading, writing, speaking and analyzation abilities. I look forward to what this year holds for us!

Curriculum Schedule:

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| --- | --- |
| **Collection 1:** Culture and Belonging | *Personal Narrative* |
| **Collection 2:** The Thrill of Horror | *Write a Persuasive Speech* |
| **Collection 3:** The Move Towards Freedom | *Create a Visual Presentation* |
| **Collection 5:** Anne Frank’s Legacy | *Write an Expository Essay* |
| **NOVEL:** *The Outsiders* | *Guided Project/ Whole Group/ Literature Teams* |
| **Poetry Wednesdays** | *Analyze various poems each Wednesday based off a particular theme.* |
| Other content such as **vocabulary**, **grammar** and **academic papers** will still take place throughout the year. | *Students will also have Independent Reading goals and read other whole- class novels.* |

Cell Phone Policy:

I hold a strict no-cell phone policy within my classroom. Students will be expected to keep their phones in their locker during ELA class. If I see a cell phone in the classroom, it will be immediately confiscated. All phone calls can be made in the office.

Late Work Policy:

All work that is not turned in by the scheduled due date will receive a “Missing” score until the assignment is turned in. Once turned in, it will be marked as “Late”. All students have until the end of the quarter to turn in any and all late work. Redo work can be once you have turned in a late assignment.

Redo Policy:

Students will only be able to redo an assignment after speaking with me first. The original assignment must be within my possession, and redo’s will not be distributed until the day *after* the original grade has been posted in the gradebook. I hold all rights to decline students from redoing an assignment. Not all assignments will be allowed to be redone.

Absent Policy:

*If you know you are going to be absent for a vacation or event:* Please let me know ahead of time so I can provide you with your homework. It is expected that when you return, the homework is completed and ready to be turned in.

*If you have an unplanned absence*: You will be given (2) days upon returning to school based on each day of absence according to the Brandon Valley School District policy to complete all homework assignments. Work is considered late after that. Make sure to email or talk to me if there are any complications.

*If you will be gone for school-related activities***:** All homework must be completed and turned in before leaving class. If homework is not turned in, it is considered late. Please also make sure that you have all assigned homework and materials before leaving class/school.

Communication:

I am available before school (7:30am) and after school (4:00pm) for any homework assistance. I can also be reached by email. Please make sure that if you have any questions or concerns, to either call the school or send me an email.

**PHONE:** (605)-582-3214

**EMAIL:** Caitlyn.Schwebach@k12.sd.us

Google Classroom and Lesson Plans:

For students, I plan to use Google Classroom as a way for us all to connect and access online materials. This will be one way for students to turn in work online through their computer device. Every week my lesson plans will be posted on my website for reference. Please never hesitate to send me an email with any questions you may have. Zoom and Screencastify will also be used if students are absent from class, or for digital learning instances.

School Device Usage:

I hold students to a very high level in proper internet and school device usage guidelines and standards. Any inappropriate usage on their designated device will be reported to the Brandon Valley Middle School administration. This also includes when researching in class for content-related projects as plagiarism, copying and cheating are not tolerated or allowed. Please refer to the Brandon Valley Student Handbook for school-wide guidelines.

**Parent** Signature

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Date:

**Student** Name:

Student Signature:

Date:

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\*\*\*I have read this syllabus and understand the guidelines of its content. **Please return** **this** **signature sheet to Ms. Schwebach by Wednesday, August 26th, 2020.** Thank you! \*\*\*