

<u>ABOUT THE TEACHER</u>		<u>ABOUT THE CLASS</u>	
<p>My name is Mr. Lyons. I teach 7th and 8th grade English and a class of 8th grade Bible at OCSI. I've been living in Okinawa since 2018. My wife also works at OCSI as a second grade teacher; we have a daughter who was born in January of 2021. I look forward to meeting all of you and learning together!</p>		<p>English 8 is designed to continue developing a foundation for student's English communication and literary skills. Students will read historical fiction related to American and Biblical history. Students will continue to use the writing process approach to further develop writing skills, including writing poetry. They will also write research and opinion-based papers. Additionally, students will deepen their mastery of the English language through vocabulary development, grammar study, quarterly independent reading, and daily speaking, listening, discussing, and other collaboration.</p>	
		<u>SUPPLIES: WHAT YOU NEED</u>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Black or blue pens...preferably erasable -B5 loose lined paper with 26 holes -5 tabs/dividers for the binder -B5 lined notebook -Coloring pencils or pens for correction -B5 metal ring binder with 26 holes -Headphones/earphones 	
		<u>HOW YOU'LL BE GRADED</u>	
		<p>Major Grades - 60% Minor Grades - 40%</p>	<p>1 Day Late: 10% off 2 Days Late: 20% off 3 Days Late: 30% off 4 Days Late: May not be accepted for credit</p>
<u>**STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**</u>			
<u>Respectful Image Bearers</u>	<u>Culture Builders</u>	<u>Empathetic Learners</u>	<u>Critical Thinkers</u>
<u>**COURSE OBJECTIVES**</u>			
<u>Reading and Understanding</u>		<u>Writing</u>	
<p>Students will be able to read, comprehend, cite, and analyze narrative and informational texts, stories, poetry, dramas, and poems according to 8th grade standards.</p>		<p>Students will be able to write argumentative, informational, and narrative texts, maintaining style and format appropriate to 8th grade standards.</p>	
<u>Speaking and Listening</u>		<u>Language</u>	
<p>Students will be able to discuss a wide variety of issues relevant to 8th grade, present products professionally, and communicate appropriately according to 8th grade standards.</p>		<p>Students will be able to utilize proper English grammar functions, determine and clarify unknown words, and demonstrate understanding of figurative language according to 8th grade standards.</p>	

Connecting Christian Truths

Students will be able to connect God's truth in his Word with topics related to English Language Arts through reading, writing, and speaking appropriate to 8th grade standards.

For More Information about 8th grade standards, please refer to Common Core State Standards.

****ROUTINES****

Journals (Weekly)

Grammar (Every Other Week)

Vocabulary (Every Other Week)

Independent Reading (Quarterly)

****POLICY****

Classroom Library

Chromebooks

Homework

Preparation

GOALS

By the end of this course, I will UNDERSTAND...

- Literary devices and how they are implemented within literature
- Elements of the entire writing process from brainstorming to publishing
- Elements of the filmmaking process
- Elements of good research
- Elements of persuasive writing
- Elements of cultural poetry
- Elements of professional communication including presentations, petitions, business letters, etc.
- Elements of a convincing presentation

By the end of this course, I will BE ABLE TO...

- Apply skills and strategies to identify and analyze literary devices within literature
- Write with clarity, consistency, and understanding throughout the entire writing process
- Present what you have researched convincingly and effectively
- Collaborate with group members effectively and truthfully
- Read, analyze, and write poetry using form, figurative language, and sound devices
- Create a logical and compelling argument

****For clarifying information, check the appendix of the digital copy****

Appendix:

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Respectful Image Bearers

- Our class rules are simple and can be summarized in just one word...respect. We each bear the image of God, therefore, so that we can all enjoy and grow in our understanding together, we will try to communicate and collaborate with the qualities of the Fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control).

Culture Builders

- Students are culture builders. Each student contributes his/her own creative characteristics to our classroom culture. Students will honor one another, contribute their unique perspectives and try new things. Students will not fear failure, but use it as a growing opportunity to develop their indispensable role in our classroom and community. Students will enter class prepared with all materials needed to complete the day's tasks.

Empathetic Learners

- Students will show empathy to one another, kindly listening to one another's views and engaging with others who disagree in a gentle manner. Our goal is class unity amidst diverse beliefs and worldviews. We will seek to love one another like Jesus loves us.

Critical Thinkers

- Students will grow in their critical thinking, seeking to understand before expressing their opinion with evidence.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Reading and Understanding

Students will be able to read, comprehend, cite, and analyze narrative and informational texts, stories, poetry, dramas, and poems according to 8th grade standards.

1. **Literature:** To comprehend, analyze, and identify the author's point of view, character's diverse perspectives, central themes, symbols, and other literary devices used throughout a text.
2. **Informational Text:** To comprehend, analyze, and identify the author's point of view and purpose for writing a text.
3. **Visual Art:** To comprehend, analyze, and identify film director's purposes for specific portrayals of scenes and characters.
4. **Poetry:** To comprehend, analyze, and identify poetic devices used in the language of poetry.

Writing

Students will be able to write argumentative, informational, and narrative texts, maintaining style and format appropriate to 8th grade standards.

1. **Narrative Writing:** To develop narratives with clear plotlines, meaningful characterization, purposeful symbols, and central themes. Students will develop their ability to use voice, tone, and mood in their writing.
2. **Research/Argumentative Writing:** To research public issues with the intention of correcting a problem for the benefit of society. Students will be able to find reliable evidence, identify bias, and cite their evidence in MLA format.
3. **Poetry:** To creatively express one's culture with the use of intentional language, poetic devices, and personal experiences.
4. **Language:** To express their God-given, personal creativity through proper English grammar, conventions, and figurative language.

Speaking and Listening

Students will be able to discuss a wide variety of issues relevant to 8th grade, present products professionally, and communicate appropriately according to 8th grade standards.

1. **Discussion:** To come to class prepared for discussions, ask appropriate questions that deepen the discussion, and act appropriately when discussing.
2. **Presentations:** To practice and prepare presentations, communicating in a clear, non-distracting, and professional manner.

Language

Students will be able to utilize proper English grammar functions, determine and clarify unknown words, and demonstrate understanding of figurative language according to 8th grade standards.

1. **Grammar:** To demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English including grammar usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
2. **Vocabulary:** To determine or clarify the meaning of unknown words using different strategies including context, root words, and reference materials

Connecting Christian Truths

Students will be able to connect God's truth in his Word with topics related to English Language Arts through reading, writing, and speaking appropriate to 8th grade standards.

1. **Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration:** To connect texts to God's purpose for Creation, the devastation of sin, God's plan for redemption, and our part in His plan for Restoration.

For More Information about 8th grade standards, please refer to Common Core State Standards.

ROUTINES

Journals

- Students will be required to respond to journal prompts that will address a wide range of topics and assess a wide range of topics, encouraging them to write and reflect on their lives.

Grammar

- Students will address a new grammar concept every 2 weeks. At the start of each week, students will receive the online lessons needed to fill out the guided notes, practice sentences and any additional assessments. Grammar will always be due at the end of the week and quizzes will be given at the end of a 2 week cycle.

Vocabulary

- Students will build their vocabulary by developing strategies to determine the meaning of unknown or multiple meaning words.

Independent Reading

- Students will participate in independent reading through the Accelerated Reader program offered by Renaissance Learning, Inc. This program provides reading levels that match student's abilities and progresses as they progress.

POLICY

Classroom Library

- Students may check out any book on Mr. Lyons' class bookshelves, but they must use the booksource program on their chromebooks. Books may be checked out 2 at a time. Students are responsible for returning all of Mr. Lyons' class books back to the class by the end of the year. If books are lost, damaged, or not returned, students will be responsible for the cost of replacing the book.

Chromebooks

- Students are expected to show respect by only viewing what is necessary for English class during class time. If chromebooks are not charged for class, students will be marked as unprepared.

Homework

- Homework is expected to be turned in at the start of class on the day it is due. Homework should not under any circumstances be accomplished during another class period or during lessons in English 7. Homework that is not turned in at the start of class will be marked as late unless stated otherwise.

Preparation

- Students will come to class prepared with all the materials needed to complete the day's tasks (charged chromebooks, novels, binders, notebooks, paper, pencil, etc.).

My child and I have read and fully understand Mr. Lyons' English 8 syllabus, expectations, and policies.

Student's Name (Print) _____ Parent's Name (Print) _____

Student's Signature & Date _____ Parent's Signature & Date _____
