# David Crockett Middle School — 2025-2026 Syllabus

# **English Language Arts 8**

## Contact Information

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David Crockett Middle School

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Please leave a message at any time. Please allow 24 school hours for a response, as my phone does not ring during school hours.

**Supplies**

* Electronic device with internet (laptop, phone, tablet) fully charged
* Flash drive and headphones (optional)
* Class spiral
* Loose leaf notebook paper
* Black or blue pens/pencils/erasers
* Markers/Colored Pencils
* Whiteout (if you choose to use pen)
* Highlighters
* 1 package of disinfecting wipes (bleach-free)
* 1 box of tissues
* Hand sanitizer
* Selected book for independent reading
* Prescription eyewear (if applicable)

**Conference Times:**

Monday/Thursday/Friday

9:55-10:35 AM by appointment

**Tutorials:** Mondays 4:20-6:00 PM oras neededby appointment (open door policy)

**Description**

Students in the 8th-grade ELA classes experience English Language Arts through the implementation of the Reading and Writing Workshop. As designed by the Fort Bend Independent School District, with each curriculum unit, students will experience ELA through reading, writing, oral and written conventions, research, listening, and speaking. Students will comprehend grade-level text through increased independent reading time by studying author’s craft (the way an author uses literary devices writing styles, and purposes for writing) to enhance their comprehension skills. Students will consider how their own experiences contribute to the meaning of text. Students will follow the writing process to compose narrative and expository text. Students will actively participate in lessons and discussions by listening attentively and taking notes to record ideas and information. Students will interact with the teacher and peers to make appropriate comments and ask relevant questions in formal and informal settings.

### Methods of Instruction

* **Class Lecture/Discussion**
* **Class Group /Individual activities**
* **Writing assignments**

### Required Reading

Students are required to read a variety of genres this year. It is my goal to have students read at least three works of literature (novels/plays) this school year.

**I encourage students to read for 20 minutes per day for entertainment.**

### Synchronous Learning Rules

* **Prompt**-Students should arrive at class on time.
* **Prepared**-Students are expected to bring materials and homework every day.
* **Polite**-Students should use language and behavior that is appropriate for a professional environment, and be mindful of the Respect Agreement, which will be created and signed the first week of school.
* **Productive**-Students should use their time and resources wisely.
* **Positive**- Students should use constructive feedback to support classmates.

“Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work.”-Aristotle

**Assessment & Grading**

Assessment methods include quizzes, tests, class activities, projects, and evaluation of writing and other assignments. Grading is divided into two categories:

Daily Grades: 50%

Major Grades: 50%

A final exam will not be given for this course. However, during Terms 2 & 4, four (4) major assessments will be given. The weight of the additional assessment will count as part of the 50% of the student’s grading period average.

**All notices of major grade assignments will be posted at least two weeks in advance.** Students will also get notice during class one week prior to the major assessment.

### Classroom Procedures

* **Tardy policy**: Students should be present in class for their assigned period and prepared for the warm-up. Students who arrive after the start of instruction should not disturb the class and must enter quietly. You will be instructed at an appropriate time.
* **Assignments**: Students should become accustomed to checking Schoology for weekly outlines and assignments due dates/tests dates.
* **Turning in work:** Students will turn in assignments in through Schoology or in person by the assigned due date(s).

**Tests (major grades)** All students have an **opportunity** to retake a test they failed. A 75 percent is the highest grade a student can earn on a retake according to district policy. If the student does not take advantage of retesting on the scheduled day, the original grade will remain.

**Late work:** Late work is strongly discouraged as this delays students from receiving feedback. 10 points will be deducted per day for late assignments. After three days, the highest possible grade is a 70%, and after that, it is capped at 50%.

**If you are absent:** Students who are absent should utilize Schoology for missed assignments and notes. Often, group in-class assignments are given, so the student will need to check with a classmate to see what they have missed, and then check with your teacher. This should be done before or after class. Students have the number of days they were absent to turn in the missing work.

**Grade status:** Students are strongly encouraged to view

their grade status in the online gradebook (Skyward). Student conferences will be scheduled as needed.

**Plagiarism/Academic Integrity/AI:** Copying materials, ideas, words, or phrases will not be tolerated in any fashion. Students must create their own work. Students must cite any references or resources used in this class. The use of copyrighted music or images is not allowed.

**Netiquette:** Students should use their own login information to gain access to the online accounts. Keep your electronic devices charged and your password private.

**Term 1 Grading Period (August 12 – October 10)**

Progress Report 1 (August 12 – August 29)

Progress Report 2 (August 30 – September 19)

Term 1 Report (August 12 – October 10)

**End of 1st Nine Weeks October 10th**

**Term 2 Grading Period (October 21 – December 19)**

Progress Report 3 (October 21 – November 7)

Progress Report 4 (November 8 – December 5)

Term 2 Report (October 21 – December 19)

**End of 2nd Nine Weeks (December 19th)**

**Semester 1 Grading Period (****August 12 – December 19)**

**Term 3 Grading Period (January 8 – March 13)**

Progress Report 5 (January 8 – January 28)

Progress Report 6 (January 29 – February 19)

Term 3 Report (January 8 – March 13)

**End of 3rd Nine Weeks March 13th**

**Term 4 Grading Period (March 23 –** **May 28**)

Progress Report 7 (March 23 – April 10)

Progress Report 8 (April 11 – May 1)

Term 4 Report (March 23 – May 28)

**End of 4th Nine Weeks (May 28th)**

**Semester 2 Grading Period (January 8–May 28)**

**General Grading Guidelines**

* A minimum of nine (9) grades will be in the gradebook each term *(see special note under Semester Grades for the exception to this rule)*. Three grades must be from major assessments/projects and the other six (6) grades will come from daily assignments. Please be mindful that students may be required to submit more assignments than what will be graded to demonstrate mastery in the formative process.
* Each assignment will represent student learning on identified learning progressions and will only be counted in the gradebook one time unless the assignment measures different standards.
* Grades will be posted within five (5) school days of the assignment due date unless special circumstances are granted by the principal for projects, which will be communicated in advance.
* The areas of attitude, behavior and tardiness will not influence a student’s academic grade. They will influence a student’s conduct grades and be reported as E (Excellent), S (Satisfactory), N (Needs Improvement), or U (Unsatisfactory). Parent contact will be made prior to reporting a conduct grade of N or U.

**Breaks:** Students must adhere to the 10/10 rule (students may not leave the class the first or the last 10 minutes of class). Please do not ask to use the restroom when instruction is being given.

**Cell phones: Per state law and FBISD** Students should have all electronic devices stored in their backpacks upon entering the building or they will be confiscated.

### Behavior Expectations:

Students will adhere to the Respect Agreement developed during

the first week of school.

**Violations of Behavior Expectations and Class Rules**

Repeated violations of expectations and rules are cause for concern, as they may hinder learning. The following are in-class options in accordance with the FBISD Student Code of Conduct and the discipline policy of David Crockett Middle School. They are not necessarily successive steps in a process.

1. I will address the behavior verbally or non-verbally by reminding students of expectations/rules.
2. I will ask the student to step out into the hallway/virtual break room for a quick discussion.
3. I will call and/or email a parent and document the behavior.
4. I will call and/or email a parent and enter the behavior in Skyward as a discipline referral.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_