



David Crockett Middle School — 2022-2023 Syllabus

English Language Arts 8 and Yearbook

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)
- Flash drive
- Class spiral or composition notebook for taking notes
- 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
- Selected book for independent reading
- Prescription eyewear (if applicable)

Conference Times:

Monday/Thursday/Friday

10:50-11:30 AM or by appointment

Wednesday

12:55-2:15 or by appointment

Tutorials: as needed by appointment
(open door policy)

Description

Students in the 8th-grade ELA and yearbook 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, 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 given instruction at an appropriate time.
- **Assignments:** Student should become accustomed to checking Schoology for weekly outlines and any assignment 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. Per campus policy, students will receive 20 points off after one day, 30 points off for two days late, and/or a maximum grade of 50 for three or more days late.

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: 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. 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 10 – October 7, 2022)

Progress Report 1 (August 10 – August 26)

Progress Report 2 (August 29 – September 16)

Term 1 Report (August 10 – October 7)

End of 1st Nine Weeks October 7, 2022

Term 2 Grading Period (October 11 – December 16, 2022)

Progress Report 3 (October 11 – October 28)

Progress Report 4 (November 1 – November 18)

Term 2 Report (October 11 – December 16)

End of 2nd Nine Weeks/Semester 1 Grading Period (August 10 – December 16, 2022)

Term 3 Grading Period (January 5 – March 10, 2023)

Progress Report 5 (January 5 – January 25)

Progress Report 6 (January 26 – February 15)

Term 3 Report (January 5 – March 10)

End of 3rd Nine Weeks March 10th, 2023

Term 4 Grading Period (March 20 – May 25, 2023)

Progress Report 7 (March 20 – April 6)

Progress Report 8 (April 11 – April 28)

Term 4 Report (March 20 – May 25)

End of 4th Nine Weeks/Semester 2 Grading Period (January 5th–May 25th, 2023)

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: I do not want to see them. You should not use them in class unless your teacher has given permission. You will be expected to switch off your cellphone, deposit the device in the pocket chart provided, and collect it at the end of the class period.

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: _____