

Mrs. Niziol's 8th Grade ELA

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Welcome to 8th Grade ELA!

This year is going to be different than your other years at Starpoint, so it is going to be more important than ever that you pay close attention to the policies and procedures of English 8 since you will not physically be in class every day to receive these reminders on a daily basis.

This syllabus provides an overview of what you need to know about English 8. Although I have high expectations and ELA is a challenging and rigorous course, if you give 100% it will also be an exciting and enjoyable class! Please remember, I am here to help you succeed so if you find you need additional help- don't hesitate to ask!

Course Overview: ELA 8 requires intensive reading and writing as we explore various types of texts from great works of literature like Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* to historical texts that document important events from the past. This course will foster and develop vital reading and writing skills necessary for high school as well as laying a foundation for any creative and purposeful expression in language. Students will be required to think creatively and analytically while reading and responding to texts. Independent reading and journal responses will be assigned for homework to help reinforce the skills being taught in class.

Expectations: In order to have a positive learning environment, students need to have a sense of respect for themselves and others. It is extremely important that all students come to class **PREPARED AND ON TIME**. When students are late and missing supplies, it negatively impacts their involvement in our lesson and the rest of the class. As our face-to-face time is much more limited than usual, every minute in class will need to be utilized. The most important thing you need to have each day is your **charged** chromebook. In addition to these necessities, there are also the basic expectations that students will also raise their hand before speaking and politely listen to whoever the speaker is.

Homework: The expectations for homework completion are not significantly different in our hybrid or remote model than the normal school year. When homework is assigned, it is due on the following day, unless stated otherwise. This is the same for **all** ELA 8 students. This means you are required to go on Google Classroom every day to complete the classwork and see if there is homework. If you are at home, you are still responsible for logging in and completing the classwork and homework. All homework is posted in Google Classroom, but also on our North Star's website calendar for the entire week. Homework is an important part of your grade so be sure to complete all homework assignments. Failure to complete assignments will result in a deduction of points. Please check the portal to be sure you are not missing anything. **This is YOUR responsibility! Any work not made up within 7 days will receive a zero. Late work receives half credit.**

Supplies: For ELA class this year, you will need one 2 inch binder that will **only** be used for ELA. You will keep this binder at home. Each day you are given papers in class, you will be told which should stay in your folder and which should go in your binder. These will mostly be notes. In addition, you will need 6 dividers. You are expected to have a writing utensil each day for notes that will not be on the chromebook. We will use earbuds for the Chromebooks also, so the team expects a pair to be kept on you at all times.

Attendance: Attendance and participation in class is a critical component in understanding class material and assignments. In order to be successful in ELA 8, you have to be here on time every day! If you miss a class **it is your responsibility** to make up all material that you have missed. Again, hybrid and virtual have the same attendance expectations. The work you complete in Google Classroom (on time) will serve as your attendance for each day.

Participation: All students are expected to participate in class discussions and activities. Your positive contribution to our learning environment will be reflected in your class grade as well as add to what you learn this year! There will be opportunities in-person as well as remotely having discussions.

Grading: All grades and progress reports will be posted on the parent portal and available at all times. Parents and/or students will need to make sure they can access the portal and contact Student Services if they need assistance with their account. I will be in contact with parents of students who are in jeopardy of failing throughout each quarter. Any work incomplete after 7 days will receive a zero for a grade.

Extra Help: If you find you are struggling with anything in ELA 8, please do not hesitate to schedule a time for me to help you. I am here to help you succeed and want this to be an amazing year!

Please fill out this [Google Form](#) so I can confirm you have read and understand our policies and procedures. There is also a place for you to submit any questions you may have.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions! I look forward to an amazing year!