

Keep this syllabus in the front of your binder all year long!

8th Grade Language Arts Syllabus
2016-2017 School Year

Teacher: Mr. Matt Raper- Room 4022
School Email: RAPER_M@hcde.org
School Phone: (423) 886-0881 ext. 321

Useful Websites: PowerSchool: <http://powerschool.hcde.org/public/>
Managebac: signalmtn.managebac.com (Enter username and password)
Class Website: <http://smmhs.hcde.org/>
(Click school staff and Matthew Raper)

Supplies:	3-ring binder	Flash drive
	Dividers	2 expo markers
	Post-its	Pencils
	College-ruled notebook paper	Pens
	Composition book	Gmail Account

Classroom Expectations:

All students are expected to follow the classroom rules and policies outlined in Mr. Raper's guide to student success. Our classroom will be energetic and students are expected to participate in all classroom activities at all times. The classroom will function using the following five rules:

1. Follow directions quickly.
2. Raise your hand for permission to speak.
3. Raise your hand for permission to leave your seat.
4. Make smart choices.
5. Keep your dear teacher happy.

How do you keep your dear teacher happy? Refer to rules one through four!!

Habitual rule breaking will be dealt with using a minor behavior tracking worksheet with the following five consequences:

1. Verbal Warning.
2. Restating classroom expectations/Seat Change.
3. Parent Contact/Behavior report.
4. Afterschool Detention/Other consequence agreed upon by Parent/Guardian and Teacher
5. Referral to the office

Grading Policy:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| 1. Teaching/Learning Tasks | 50% |
| 2. Assessment Tasks | 50% |

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Cell Phone Policy:

Students are never to use their cell phones during class unless it is during an earned “tech time,” usually during the last three to five minutes of class. Students will be given two chances to correct their behavior regarding this policy, and any breaking of this policy will be recorded on the minor behavior tracking sheet. The third violation of this policy will result in the phone being confiscated and turned in to the administration of Signal Mountain Middle High School where it will be held according to the policy set forth in the student handbook.

Writing:

- Students will be writing in class each day, and students will generate numerous short and long writing pieces on selected fiction and non-fiction literature.
- All final copies MUST be typed and submitted on Managebac. If you do not have access to a computer at home, then you will have access at school, but you must allow enough time to type at school before the deadline. If you do not know your Managebac username and password, then please let me or your Directed Studies teacher know.
- Deadlines for writing assignments will be announced to students and posted in the classroom as well as on the website. Any papers turned in after the due date will not receive full credit. No late work will be accepted after 5 days.

Reading:

- Students will be engaging with various types of literature throughout the school year, i.e., textbook pieces, outside novels, non-fiction articles, etc.
- Books may be on digital devices, but if students use the internet or play games at inappropriate times, the device will be confiscated and taken to the office, using the same procedure stated in the cell phone policy above. When not in use, students should turn their devices face down on the top of their desk in order to avoid violating the above policy.

Vocabulary:

- Students will continue vocabulary development through the use of word cells this year and will learn 2 new cells each class period, beginning with the first week of school.
- Students will be quizzed on the vocabulary cells, with a quiz taking place after the completion of twenty cells.

Homework:

- I hate homework. I will do my best to keep homework to a minimum. We will work in class to complete projects in order to eliminate outside work as much as possible.

Late Work:

- Late work is not the same as work from an absence.
- Students will have 5 days to complete and submit late work, and 5 points will be deducted each day the assignment is late.

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- **After 5 school days, late work cannot be submitted.**
- If absent, students have 5 school days to complete missed assignments, but the late work policy will apply after that period.

PowerSchool and Class Website:

- Students are expected to check PowerSchool each day.
- **Temporary zeros will be entered as a reminder** for assignments that are not submitted on time. Once the work is submitted, the zeros will be replaced with the actual grade.

Contact:

- Email is always going to be the best way to reach me. I check my email at least twice per day, once before school starts and once when the school day ends. I will respond to all emails by the end of the following day that I receive the email.

Please sign and turn in this page to show that both student and parent have read and understand the expectations and procedures for this year.

I have read the policies and procedures for Mr. Raper's 8th grade Language Arts Class.

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Student Name (please print): _____

Date: _____