

English-Language Arts

Grade 8

Mrs. Colleen Kunz

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Supplies: Please bring the following items to class every day. It is very important to be prepared!

- Pencil case: Pencils, erasers, glue stick, red pen, & highlighters
- Grammar notebook
- Planner
- Writing Notebook



Discipline: Students are expected to follow the rules from the Middle School Handbook. The teacher will enforce the consequences. The teacher will track behavior marks and late grades. Four behavior marks and/or five late grades will result in a detention. Positive behaviors will be rewarded with punches on each student's punch card. When a student fills his/her punch card, he/she can pull from the prize jar.

*****ELA will rotate between writing units and grammar units.*****

Students will study various grammar units throughout the year. Many units will only take a week to cover. Topics will be discussed in class using notes and practice problems. Homework problems will be given to review the concept discussed in class. Worksheets and quizzes will be given in class to ensure comprehension of the topics. A test will be given at the end of most units.

Topics to be Covered:

- Grammar Rules
- Types of Sentences
- Parts of Speech
- Active & Passive Voice
- Verbals
- Punctuation
- Irony & Puns
- Connotation & Denotation
- Public Speaking
- Moods of Verbs

Writing: Students will write papers throughout the year as well as various mini-writing assignments. All students will follow a writing process that is guided by the teacher. The process will contain many drafts and revisions. Deadlines will be set by the teacher and will vary based on each student's progress.

During writing units, fewer grades will be taken. The teacher will be tracking participation and progress. At the end of the paper's writing process, the totals will be entered into the grade book.

Papers & Writing Units:

- Argument
- Research
- Memory Book
- Kindergarten Book
- Newspaper
- Short Story
- MLA Review
- Rhetoric



Memory Book

A book of memories will be scrapbooked. It will consist of memories and thoughts from the student's life. There will be a total of eight chapters in the book, deadlines will be set throughout the year. The entire book will be compiled and due at the end of the year. More information will be sent home at a later date.

Kindergarten Book

Each student will write a narrative for the kindergarten class. They will use the kindergarten sight words to write the book and add their own illustrations. This book will be worked on throughout the year. The rough draft will be due before Christmas break. When students return from the break, they will receive their hardback book to complete their final. Books will be due in May and presented to the kindergarten class.

Newspaper

Students will complete a newspaper of their own for a writing assignment at the beginning of the year. Then throughout the year, students will write newspaper articles about the happenings at Bartelso Elementary. The completed articles and pictures will be sent to the *Breese Journal* for publishing.

IXL

IXL will be used to help students practice concepts taught in class. The teacher will give students a smart score to reach. If a student earns a 100 on the lesson, he/she will receive one extra credit point. Each IXL assignment is considered homework and will follow the scoring below. The points will be entered in the grade book at the end of the unit.

Scoring

100 = 4 (+1 extra credit)

85 = 3

84-62 = 2

64-44 = 1

44-0 = 0

Extra Credit

Students will be offered extra credit on Tuesdays. Students will have an opportunity to complete a half sheet containing four problems. Each problem is worth half a point. If a student doesn't put their name on the paper, it will be thrown away and no points will be given. If a student is absent, they will not have an opportunity to complete the sheet. Points will be added to the English-Language Arts grade at midterm and at the end of the quarter.

Public Speaking

Students will practice public speaking throughout the year. Ted Talks will be used to help students learn proper speaking techniques. Students will be required to give an impromptu speech, Ted Talk, and a demonstration speech.

It is the student's responsibility to ask questions and seek out extra help before/after school or during academic prep. I am here to help each student learn and work up to their potential.



Literature

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Students will use their literature notebook from seventh grade to organize notes and handouts for each standard that is covered. Each quarter we will read selections as a class. We will review standards using the readings we are completing as a class. Our weekly lessons will focus on guided, group, and individual practice and discussions of standards and novels. A test and project will finish each novel study, along with various quizzes and mini-assessments each quarter.

Quarter 1: Reading Literature Standards 1-4; Reading Informational Standards 1-4; Novel: *That was Then, This is Now*

Quarter 2: Reading Literature Standards 5-8; Reading Informational Standards 5-8; Author Study: Edgar Allen Poe

Quarter 3: Review Standards; Novel: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

Quarter 4: Poetry; Play: *Diary of Anne Frank*

Monthly Reading:

Students will be required to read one book a month. Students will receive a calendar at the beginning of each month. Journal entries will be due throughout the month regarding their book of choice. More information will be provided in class.

Spelling

Students will have weekly spelling words. When reading a novel, the vocabulary words will be chosen from the novel. An activity to review the words will be sent home throughout the week. Students should also study the definitions on Quizlet. A spelling quiz will be given at the end of the week and a vocabulary quiz where students will need to know the definitions of the words. When the class is not reading a novel, the spelling words will be reviewing Greek & Latin roots.

**I LOVE
TO READ**