

8th ELA

WITH MR. BLAKE

WELCOME TO 8TH GRADE

THIS YEAR WE ARE GOING TO TAKE EVERYTHING YOU HAVE LEARNED ABOUT ELA AND APPLY IT ON A DEEPER LEVEL.

WE WILL EXPERIENCE THOUGHT PROVOKING TEXTS AND NOVELS. WHEN WE READ WE WILL STRIVE FOR A GREATER UNDERSTANDING AND DEEPER ANALYSIS. AS WE DO THIS WE WILL SEE INCREASED SKILLS IN READING AND WRITING.

THIS WILL NOT BE AN EASY THING. THIS YEAR'S CHALLENGES EXTEND BEYOND THOSE WE WILL FACE IN THE CLASSROOM. BUT, WORKING TOGETHER, I AM VERY CONFIDENT THAT EVERYTHING THAT WE DO THIS YEAR WILL HELP TO PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR FUTURE IN EDUCATION AND IN LIFE.

TOGETHER, IF WE DON'T QUIT, WE KEEP ASKING QUESTIONS, PUSH FOR UNDERSTANDING AND NEVER GIVE UP WE CAN HAVE THE GREATEST EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE YOU HAVE EVER HAD. I'M NOT SURE WHAT THE YEAR WILL LOOK LIKE, BUT IF WE SUPPORT EACH OTHER, RESPECT EACH OTHER, AND WORK TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE THIS THE BEST YEAR EVER!

CONTACT INFO:
Email is the best
and quickest way
to reach me.

Email:
blakej1@dearbornschools.org

YEAR-LONG GOALS

- Grow stronger and more confident as a reader and a writer.
- Find books you love and read a lot.
- Understand and use the power of your voice. Find topics you care about. Research them. Sort out the junk.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE
IN THE WORLD.

"ONCE YOU LEARN TO READ, YOU WILL BE FOREVER FREE." – FREDERICK DOUGLASS

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GRADES

Grades are a representation of your knowledge and skills. They will fluctuate on a daily basis and serve to guide you on where you are at in the learning process. Using that information with a growth mindset will allow you to reach success.

According to Dearborn School's Policy, summative assessments (tests, projects, essays etc) are worth 80% of the course grade. Practice formative assignments will count for the other 20%.

Grading for middle school will be different than in years past. Middle School grades will run cumulative for the semester. What this means is that your Cardmarking 1 score will continue to be counted in Cardmarking 2 which will end in your Semester 1 grade. This is the same as the high school. You will start fresh in Cardmarking 3 and those scores will continue to be counted in Cardmarking 4 and result in your Semester 2 grade.

GRADING SCALE

A+ = 99-100%	D+ = 67-69
A = 93-98	D = 63-66
A- = 90-92	D- = 60-62
B+ = 87-89	E = 0-59.9
B- = 83-86	
B = 80-82	
C+ = 77-79	
C = 73-76	
C- = 70-72	

WORK POLICIES

- WORK SHOULD ALWAYS BE DONE TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITIES AND SHOULD BE SOLELY YOUR OWN.
- PLAGIARIZED OR NO WORK SUBMITTED IS A 0 (ZERO).
- WORK THAT IS LATE IS ONLY ACCEPTED 1 WEEK AFTER THE DUE DATE AND IS ELIGIBLE FOR ONLY FOR ½ CREDIT.
- SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR REDOS/RETAKES WHEN UNDER A 69% AND YOU HAVE MET WITH ME TO DISCUSS THE WEEK IT IS RETURNED.
- FORMATIVE ASSIGNMENTS ARE PRACTICE AND NOT ELIGIBLE FOR REGRADING. YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO FIX, IN ORDER TO GET MORE PRACTICE AND LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES.

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DIGITAL LINKS

- INDEPENDENT READING: [Sora](#)
[Audible](#)
[Project Gutenberg](#)
- [Schoology](#)
- [Read Write Think](#) digital student tools
- [TED Talks](#) from authors
- [Poetry](#)

"TWEET OTHERS THE WAY YOU WANT TO BE
TWEETED." - GERMANY KENT

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READING AT HOME

Support reading as a family:

1. Agree to turn off electronics to drop everything and read for at least 20 minutes/night.
2. Read together. Talk about books as a family. Listen to books in the car (audio books are amazing!). Read books at bedtime.
3. Realize that you WILL get smarter by dedicating reading time at home--have a growth mindset!

WHY IS READING AT HOME IMPORTANT?

When a student reads 20 minutes a day at home, that student reads 1,800,000 words a year compared to 8,000 words per year for a student who reads one minute or less.

Students who read 20 minutes a day at home also perform 90% better on all content area assessments than their classmates who do not read. Reading as much and as well as you can is a key to your success in school and beyond!

Independent Reading

With the current situation, you will be reading 1 independent book a card marking of at least 250 pages and completing 1 book form about the book.

Choose books that:

- Interest you; not just by lexile
- You can understand
- Are new to you (haven't read before- No, The Giver or Legend)
- Are appropriate for you; comfortable with subject matter/style
- Are suitable for middle school and beyond (no more, Diary of A Wimpy Kid)
- Are not a movie (no, The Outsiders)

You may read more for extra credit as long as they meet the requirements above. If you don't meet the above requirements, they don't count for class. The goal is for you to enjoy reading and grow as a reader!