



Mrs. Jordan Sanders

8th Grade Language Arts

Morton Middle School

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Course Overview

READING

The KY standards for Reading define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of each grade. To meet this expectation for 8th grade, students must read from a range of high quality, increasingly challenging literary and informational print and non-print text sets from diverse cultures, time periods and disciplines, including all content areas. By thinking critically and analytically, students begin to reflect on themselves and the world around them. Through independent and flexible use of cognitive strategies, students will acquire knowledge and develop into independent, proficient life long learners.

WRITING

Students will use narratives strategically in other modes of writing. Emphasis should be placed on text-based evidence and evidence based writing experiences. Test-based writing greatly benefits reading comprehension by encouraging students to review and reflect on what they have read. Reading and writing should be viewed as complementary learning rather than separate subjects. Through interdisciplinary literacy practices, teachers help students employ the writing process for various purposes and audiences to become effective, independent communicators.

LANGUAGE

Within the reading and writing standards, students must demonstrate control over the conventions of Standard English. They must come to appreciate the language as much a matter of craft of rules and be able to choose words, syntax and punctuation to express themselves and achieve intended effects. Students will determine and clarify the meaning of words and phrases, including figurative language, denotations and connotations. They must also have extensive vocabularies, enabling them to comprehend complex texts and engage in purposeful writing and conversation.

Unit 1 Approaching Adulthood	Collections Anchor Texts: <i>Marigolds, When Do Kids become Adults</i> Writing Piece: Argument AR Requirements: 2 summer reading books from 8th grade list; a non-fiction book of choice Common Assessment
Unit 2 The Thrill of Horror	Collections Anchor Texts: <i>The Tell-Tale Heart, The Monkey's Paw, What is the Horror Genre?</i> Writing Piece: Informative AR Requirements: 25 AR points; <u><i>They Cage the Animals at Night</i></u> Common Assessment
Unit 3 Culture and Belonging	Collections Anchor Texts: <i>my Favorite Chaperone, What to Bring, New Immigrants Share Their Stories</i> Writing Piece: Argument/Informative Revisions AR Requirements: 25 AR points; one Holocaust book Common Assessment
Unit 4 Anne Frank's Legacy	Collections Anchor Texts: <i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i> Writing Piece: Holocaust Research Paper AR Requirements: 30 AR points; one Holocaust book Common Assessment

Classroom Supplies:

- ✓ 1 inch binder
- ✓ loose leaf paper
- ✓ Highly recommended- *They Cage the Animals at Night*- by Jennings Michael Burch
- ✓ Notebook paper (replenish as needed)

Helpful, not required items, to share with the class:

- ✓ post-it notes
- ✓ tissues
- ✓ paper towels
- ✓ highlighters/markers
- ✓ pencils
- ✓ hand sanitizer

Absences

Students will be allotted time equal to the number of days missed to submit make-up work. It is the student's responsibility to obtain absent work. A late penalty and/or a grade of zero will be given if an assignment is not made up within the time allotted. If a student is absent on the due date of a major grade (ex. project, published composition), the assignment will be due the day they return.

Missing Work

Students will be periodically given a grade report showing any missing assignments, this can also be accessed on Infinite Campus. It is the students responsibility to turn in any missing assignments before each mid-term or the end of each grading period.

FCPS Grading Scale:

90-100 A 80-89 B 70-79 C 60-69 D 0-59 F

Academic Integrity

The faculty at Morton expects a high level of responsibility and academic honesty from its students. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person. Plagiarism, especially from the Internet, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with at the discretion of the teacher.

Class Rules:

- **Work Hard** - Be in your assigned seat with all materials before the bell rings. Follow directions the first time they are given.
- **Play Fair** - Keep your hands, feet, objects, and negative remarks to yourself. No headphones or cell phones.
- **Take Care of Each Other** – Do not talk while the teacher or another student is talking. Encourage and respect one another.

Independent Reading/Accelerated Reader:

- Students are required to complete **2 AR Tests** covering their summer reading books by the end of day on Friday, September 13th, 2019. A third summer reading book and passed A.R. quiz can be completed for extra credit. AR Rewards day will be held on August 30th for students that have completed the assignment.
- Students must read one additional non-fictional book and complete its AR Test by the end of the first nine weeks.
- For the remaining nine weeks, students will have a required genre of book each month along with a required number of Accelerated Reader points to achieve. Book lists will be provided for each genre, and students may pick a book from the list or **receive teacher approval** for books not on the list.
- It is an MMS SBDM policy that every student carry a book at **ALL TIMES** throughout the day. Students will be given some time to read in Language Arts, but the majority of AR reading will be completed at home. Students should read for a minimum of 15 minutes each day.
- There will also be random book checks throughout the year for participation grades.
- www.lexile.com has a Lexile listing for most books. It is important that students challenge themselves to read on their Lexile level in order to become better readers. I will give students their Lexile level in class.

Common Assessments/Tests/Quizzes

- Students will be given an 8th grade Language Arts Common Assessment when we complete each unit.
- Common Assessments will assess the reading and writing instruction from class, along with the vocabulary and grammar covered in class.
- Tests and quizzes will be given throughout the year in order to assess where the students are in their understanding of the concepts being taught.
- Tests will be announced. Quizzes will be both announced and “pop,” so always be prepared!
- Tests/Assessments/Quizzes combine to make up 60% of the total grade for the course
- All other assignments make up the other 40% of the total grade for the course

Vocabulary Instruction

- Vocabulary instruction will provide students with the skills they need to become better readers, writers, and standardized test takers.
- Bi-weekly on Mondays, students will receive a vocabulary list and assignment covering Greek and Latin root words, along with grade level vocabulary.
- Students will complete the assignment to turn in on Monday before taking the vocabulary quiz.

I have the right to teach; students have the right to learn. Any disruption in this process will be considered a discipline problem and will be handled accordingly.

Please sign below showing that you and your child have reviewed and understand the classroom policies and procedures. This page should be turned in no later than Friday, August 13th.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Student's Name (print): _____

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by phone or e-mail. I am looking forward to a great year!

Please reach out to me with any concerns you may have!
I am excited for our new school year and hope your students are too!

Mrs. Sanders
8th Grade
English Language Arts
Triple Crown Team