

Mrs. Gonzalez
8th Grade English Language Arts
Paakuma' K-8

Class Information

We will be working diligently this year to develop our skills in accordance to the 8th Grade Common Core State Standards. We will focus on developing reading, writing, listening and speaking skills to effectively understand and explore different types of texts and expression.

Rules

Classroom expectations and consequences are posted clearly inside the classroom. Students are expected to:

1. Respect others and the classroom.
2. Remain seated.
3. Obey all school rules.

These rules are in place to provide a classroom environment where all students are able to safely participate and learn. Some negative consequences include seating changes, referrals, parent contact and lower grades in class (from not being on task). Positive consequences include, raffles, class celebrations, parent contact, good grades, and less homework (more accomplished through being on task).

Policies & Procedures

Students are expected to enter the classroom in an orderly manner and be seated. If a student needs to get up for any reason, they are expected to raise their hand and ask for permission. This policy is in place for the health and safety of the students.

Our team policy for cell phones is that they need to be stored properly and turned off during class, unless otherwise noted. The Paakuma' site policy is that they need to be kept off and out of site for all purposes outside the classroom during lunch and passing period, and while on campus before and after school. ***If a student is perceived to be using their phone, they will be given one warning. The second occurrence will result in the phone being confiscated by the teacher until the end of the class or school day (per the teacher's discretion). The third offense will result in the teacher checking the phone into the office for parent pickup.***

Restroom

Students are expected to use the restroom on their own time, except for emergencies.

Absences

If you miss school/class for any reason, please be sure make-up any work that you missed. Most assignments will be posted and submitted in Google Classroom. **LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED UNTIL THE WEEK BEFORE THE END OF THE GRADING PERIOD.**

Grading

All of the assignments given in class are important. The breakdown for class grades is as follows:

Formative Assessments

20%

Classwork and homework assignments will be included in this category. These assignments will be used to measure a student's knowledge of a skill that we are continuing to learn, or a standard that we have learned that will later be used in part of a larger assessment or task.

Learning Tasks

30%

This includes projects that we will be completing, and the tasks that are included in each unit as we work toward the culminating learning task.

Summative Assessments

50%

This category includes the end of the unit culminating learning task and formal assessments.

Total

100%

The grading scale for final grades is as follows:

100-90% A 89-80% B 65-79% C 55-64% D 0-54% F

Students and parents will have access to current grades through the Aeries Parent Portal provided by the school district. Grades will be updated in Aeries no less than every two weeks. Grades for individual assignments are also available in Google Classroom (not every assignment in Google Classroom will be entered into the Aeries Gradebook).

Supplies

In order to maximize learning, students will need to come to school with a CHARGED Chromebook and charger (these will be checked out by the school if you have not received one already). We will be using the Google Classroom platform daily. Students will also need to have their novels with them daily.

Open Door Policy

Communication is an important factor in student success. This year the district will be transitioning to using the new ParentSquare App. This will be a valuable tool to get updates on classroom information and stay in touch, please download it today if you haven't already! You may also contact me by phone or email. My email is stephanie.gonzalez@sbcusd.k12.ca.us, I check my email daily and will respond within 24 business hours to any inquiries that you may have. The school phone number is 909-355-3137, you will likely need to leave a message and I will call you back,

Literary Selections

Reading will be a required and regular part of class. Students will be expected to have a reading book with them regularly. We will read daily in class and students will be assigned reading as homework. Please check your planner nightly to make sure that you do not overlook important assigned reading. In addition to regularly embedded short informational and literary texts, we will read novels to help support the themes in our curricular units. This year's reading selections may include:

- Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card
- The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd
- The End of the Line by Angela Cerrito
- I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai
- The Giver by Lois Lowry
- Unplugged by Donna Frietas
- The Length of A String by Elissa Brent Weissman
- Monster by Walter Dean Myers

Literary/Film Analysis Parent Authorization

These books have been chosen because they illustrate themes, figurative language, dialogue, and characterization, and key elements of interpreting informational text as outlined in the Common Core 8th Grade State Standards. Furthermore, The Secret Life of Bees, I am Malala, The Giver and Ender's Game also have film interpretations that are rated PG-13. These adaptations help us to also analyze the differences between a text and its film adaptation per the Common Core State Standards, which call for the comparison of film adaptations of novels to the original text. Please sign below to indicate that you consent to your child viewing the film versions of these movies after the in-depth study of the novel. The viewing will be academic in purpose and culminate in discussion and analysis of differences between the versions.

Parent/Guardian Name

Signature

Date

I authorize my student to view the above outlined films during the 2021-2022 school year.

Each of these novels is rich with theme, characterization, figurative language, and imagery. One of the challenges that we face in teaching modern adolescent minds, is finding engaging texts that will be appropriate for middle school students. We are continually evaluating texts and in doing this we have found that occasional use of profanity is a technique that the majority of authors employ in the creation of texts, as a way of using language to develop characters, convey images and meaning. When teaching the texts in class we will address this language using an academic and standards-based approach. Please sign below to indicate that you consent to your child reading the pre-selected novels during the course of the school year.

Parent/Guardian Name

Signature

Date

I authorize my student to read the above-mentioned novels during the 2021-2022 school year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me so that we may discuss them. Thank you for your support as we work together to provide a high-quality education for your student.

Student Contact Information

Please complete the following information below in the event that I need to contact you.

Student Name (First & Last)	Period
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Parent or Guardian #1 Name (First & Last)	Relationship
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Home Phone	Cell Phone	Email
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Parent or Guardian #2 Name (First & Last)	Relationship
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Home Phone	Cell Phone	Email
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Please sign below to acknowledge that you have read and understand the information outlined in this handout.

Parent or Guardian Name	Parent or Guardian Signature	Date
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Student Name	Student Signature	Date
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Parents/Guardians—Please share any information about your student that may be beneficial for me to know in order to help them learn to their maximum potential. This may include health concerns, stressful situations, learning challenges or strengths or anything else important or interesting that you would like me to know about your child. Please continue on another sheet of paper if you need more room (or feel free to send me an email instead).
