

Student Name: _____

Teacher: _____

Block: A B C

**8th GRADE READING and LANGUAGE
COURSE SYLLABUS and CLASS EXPECTATIONS
2020 – 2021**

We know that COVID has created many changes to our daily work and school routines, but as your child returns to the demands of school – whether at home or in person, please know that it is our goal to bring your child to his/her fullest potential. While at school, we feel that an optimal learning environment must be created and that this learning environment **MUST** include rules for expected behavior. For those students who will be working from home, please know that the expectation is for them to log in to my class every day in order to keep up with lessons that will be covered in class. We will **NOT** be using only one online curriculum like many teachers did last spring. Instead, what we cover in class each day is what the lesson will be for asynchronous learning as well. Below are class expectations for all students currently attending face-to-face instruction and for any students that will be returning to school during this school year. ****Please note COVID related information.****

EXPECTATIONS: Be **RESPECTFUL**, **RESPONSIBLE**, **ENGAGED**, and **PRIDEFUL**

1. Be respectful to self, students, staff and all property.
2. Be in the classroom prepared to learn when the bell rings.
3. No food/drinks in the classroom (bottled water only).
4. Do **NOT** have your cell phone out on your desk or anywhere on you (not in your pants, shirt, jacket/hoodie pocket) or it **WILL** be taken up according to school policy.

CONSEQUENCES:

--**Minor Offenses... (by the time they get to step one, verbal reminders/warnings will have already been given)**

1. STEP ONE... Parent contact and student/teacher conference
2. STEP TWO... Parent contact and 1 hr. detention
3. STEP THREE... Parent contact, 2 hr. detention and counselor notification
4. STEP FOUR... Office Referral

--**Major Offenses...**

Immediate Office Referral (ex. profanity, fighting/physical aggression, bullying, stealing, destruction of property, etc.)

TARDINESS:

Tardiness will result in disciplinary action similar to the steps above. For tardies, they will have 5 steps that include: #1 - a warning, #2 - a one hour after school detention, #3 - a two hour detention, #4 - another two hour detention, and for tardy #5 - an office referral will be filled out. Parents will be notified at each step.

CHEATING:

Cheating (acquiring answers or providing answers) will result in a zero plus possible disciplinary measures as determined by the teacher and/or administrator. ****FOR STUDENTS WORKING ASYNCHRONOUSLY, WE WILL BE PUTTING SPECIAL MEASURES IN PLACE TO HELP US MONITOR ANY MAJOR TESTS THAT STUDENTS WILL HAVE TO TAKE.****

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Students will need their planner, a folder, a spiral, and any other general supplies as listed on their school supply list. Parents, please check periodically with your child to see if they are in need of paper, pens, pencils, etc. throughout the year. Not having materials may result in disciplinary consequences. ****FACE MASKS AND INDIVIDUAL HEADPHONES OR EAR BUDS WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED.****

PLANNER:

Each student is issued a student planner for recording the daily class assignments and listing any homework they may have. It **MUST** be brought to school daily. Parents are encouraged to review the planner with their child.

ABSENCES/MAKE-UP WORK:

It is the **student's responsibility** to ask for make-up work when he/she returns to school. The number of days allowed for make-up is equal to the number of days absent plus one additional day. If a student knows in advance that he/she will be absent from school, he/she should inform the teacher so that the work could possibly be sent home ahead of time.

****ABSENCES/WORK DUE TO COVID WILL BE HANDLED ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS.****

****FOR ASYNCHRONOUS STUDENTS, EACH OF YOUR CHILD'S TEACHERS WILL BE CHECKING ATTENDANCE/WORK COMPLETION ON A DAILY BASIS. THE EXPECTED HOURS OF LOG-IN WILL BE FROM 8am – 4pm DAILY. IF ANY ASSIGNMENTS WERE DUE THAT DAY "IN CLASS", THEY WILL ALSO BE DUE "ONLINE". THIS IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM ONLINE LEARNING IN THE SPRING SO PLEASE COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR CHILD THE IMPORTANCE OF LOGGING IN EVERY DAY AND CHECKING EVERY TEACHER'S LESSONS.****

HOMEWORK:

Homework will be assigned at the teacher's discretion and when assigned, it will be part of the daily average.

Homework is intended to develop responsibility, study habits, and skills. Reading books and/or magazines is always good for students do ☺

GRADING POLICY:

50%	Daily Work
35%	Tests/Projects/Unit Assessments/Major Writing Assignments
15%	Nine Weeks Test

Late Work: (A) If an assignment is not turned in on the date it is due, late points may be deducted. If it is not turned in before the end of the 3-week grading period, a ZERO will be recorded and will be indicated with an "M" in the grading program. Extra credit will **not** be given to replace this missing work.

*Graded papers will be sent home during the nine weeks. Parent contact will be made if your child displays a habit of not turning in work.

(B) Exceptions are made if a student's IEP states otherwise.

(C) If an assignment is listed, but does not have a grade entered, then it does NOT necessarily mean the assignment is late or missing. It may mean that we are in the process of grading the assignment or that it will soon be due. In some cases you may see an "M" for missing to let you know what the average will be if the assignment is not completed on time.

FOLDERS and SPIRALS/NOTEBOOKS:

Spirals/notebooks will be kept in class. At times, teachers may also keep writing assignments, and/or other handouts in a folder that will remain in the classroom. If a student needs to take either their notebook and/or folder home to study, it is expected that they return it to their classroom the next day.

TEXTBOOKS:

Our state-approved textbook is now online, but students will have a workbook that goes with the online material. Students are expected to write in their own workbook and/or interact with required assignments online.

LIBRARY/INDEPENDENT READING EXPECTATIONS: (altered due to COVID**)**

Students have been required to read AR books in the past as part of their reading grade. Due to asynchronous students not having access to library books here at school, this part of their reading grade is "on hold" for now. Of course we still HIGHLY ENCOURAGE reading on a daily basis because the more that they practice reading, the more confident your child will feel about his or her ability to read. Research indicates that students who read more tend to score higher on standardized reading and writing tests. Daily reading also improves written and verbal communication, comprehension, vocabulary and reading speed.

The expectations and procedures mentioned above are intended to help your child be successful in reading this year. Thank you in advance for your help and support with this reading program.

**As Dr. Seuss said, “The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”**

ELAR Teacher: Brenda Lea Underbrink

E-mail: bunderbrink@kcisd.net

Conference Time: The best times to contact me will be Monday – Friday from 8:00-9:00 and/or from 10:43-11:30. Please understand that if I am unable to meet with you due to meetings or other conferences, then please leave me a message and I will respond to you within 24 hours. Thank you!

8TH GRADE ELAR PLANS BY NINE WEEKS

Below is a brief overview of what 8th grade Reading/Language skills the state of Texas requires teachers to cover. Some of these skills may take longer to teach so we might start a skill in one nine weeks but finish it in the next. All of the TEKS that 8th grade ELAR teachers are required to teach are centered on students listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking. These skills are set by the state and because we really have a lot to teach each nine weeks, attendance and positive classroom behavior are extremely important. If you would like more information on what skills your child will be taught this year, you can go to the following website <http://www.teksresourcesystem.net/>. Under the blue box, click on the link that says “If you are a Guest or Parent, please click here”.

<p>1ST NINE WEEKS:</p> <p>Unit 1 Fundamentals of Communication</p> <p>Unit 2A Analyzing and Composing Literary/Narrative Nonfiction and Fiction</p>	<p>2ND NINE WEEKS:</p> <p>Unit 2B Analyzing and Composing Literary Texts: Poetry and Drama</p> <p>Unit 3 Analyzing and Composing Informational Text</p>
<p>3RD NINE WEEKS:</p> <p>Unit 4 Rhetorically Analyzing and Composing Argumentative Text</p> <p>Unit 5 Interpretation and Response Across Genres</p>	<p>4TH NINE WEEKS:</p> <p>Unit 5 Interpretation and Response Across Genres</p> <p>Unit 6 Research-Based Synthesis, Creation, and Innovation</p>

☺ WE LOOK FORWARD TO A GREAT 2020 - 2021 SCHOOL YEAR ☺

Please fill out the information on the next page, detach it, and return ONLY that acknowledgement page to your child’s ELAR teacher. The rest of the information is for you to keep. Thank you.

* For students who are doing asynchronous learning from home, I will be creating a different way that you and your child will be able to fill out the contact information.

My child and I have read and understand the 2020-2021 Course Syllabus and Class Expectations.

Reading Teacher: _____ Grade: ____ Block: A B C

Student (printed): _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: (printed) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

We would like to make sure that we have your correct contact information below so that we can keep you up-to-date on your child's grades, class behavior, and other needed communications. Please make sure you select which type of communication you would prefer. Thank you!

(Please check one or more)
The best way to contact me is:

Home Phone	Cell Phone	Email	Work Phone
_____	_____	_____	_____

Parent/Guardian Information:

Home #: _____ Best time to call home #: _____

(1) Parent/Guardian name: _____

Email: _____

work #: _____ cell #: _____

(2) Parent/Guardian name: _____

Email: _____

work #: _____ cell #: _____

Comments/Concerns/Questions you would like to share with your child's teacher: _____

