

Welcome to 8th Grade English with Ms. Beltran

In order to make this year go smoothly, this syllabus contains some essential information to help students and parents understand the curriculum and expectations.

ELA Curriculum

Students will read and write from a variety of sources this year, including both fiction and non-fiction text. We will read four core novels this year, including Night, Whirligig, Day of Tears and Fahrenheit 451. We will also use the new ELA curriculum, Springboard.

Course Objectives

Students will read fiction and non-fiction texts, both independently (books of their own choosing) and as a whole class. This class focuses on all types of writing, including narrative, argumentative, and informational, and the language standards will be woven in to the writing instruction. Collaborative discussions through partners, small groups, and whole class are also essential to this class.

Class Rules/ Discipline

Be kind and respectful. Work Hard. It's that simple. If breaking a rule, a student will receive a warning for the first offense. If the behavior continues, parents will be contacted.

Grading

<u>Major (Summative) 60%</u>	<u>Minor (Formative) 40%</u>
Summative assessments of the mastery of standards. Includes assignments such as: writer's notebook assessment, final draft of writing assignments, embedded Springboard assessments, major presentations, and novel writing tasks.	Formative assessment of mastery of standards such as writer's notebook home entries, Writing of the Day, independent reading book letters and one pagers, classwork, RAP notebook, reflection, and group work.
Basically, any FINAL task/assignment/project at the end of a unit that shows your "arrival" at learning.	Basically, the "journey" along the way to learning a certain skill or piece of knowledge.

Grading Philosophy

I believe that grades should be an accurate reflection of student knowledge of the class content/standards and the student's ability to demonstrate that knowledge. All students should have every opportunity to succeed and every opportunity to demonstrate mastery of content. Because of this, there will be no penalty for late work, but all "minor" work must be turned in by progress report time and the end of the trimester to be credited toward the student's grade. Also, because mastery is the goal, students may redo any assignment until mastery is achieved.

Students will be graded on a 4-point rubric which will then be converted to a letter grade for recording purposes. To receive an "A" students must show understanding that exceeds what was taught in class. Grades should be utilized as feedback that students can use to self-assess and improve learning.

Gradebook note: A score of "5" in the gradebook means the assignment was NOT completed and is missing. In English, a "5=0".

Rubric

Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Approaching Expectations	Not Meeting Expectations	Not Meeting Expectations
4—The student has a complete and detailed understanding of the information important to the topic that exceeds what was taught in class.	3—The student has a complete understanding of the information important to the topic but not in great detail.	2—The student has an incomplete understanding of the topic and/or misconceptions about some of the information. However, the student maintains a basic understanding of the topic.	1—The student's understanding of the topic is so incomplete or has so many misconceptions that the student cannot be said to understand the topic.	0—No judgment can be made about the student's understanding of the topic. <i>Marzano, Robert</i>

Homework

Homework for this class consists of three things: independent reading, article of the week, and one home entry in the writer's notebook. Any work not finished in class is expected to be completed at home that night. Students will keep track of all homework and assignments in the planner, which we update every Monday.

Independent Reading

This year students will read more than they ever have (yes, more than last year!), with them choosing what they read, and setting regular reading goals. Because some books do contain mature content, please monitor what they read and let me know if you want me to monitor what books your child chooses. In this class, there is a 25 book challenge to read at least 25 books this school year. It is expected!

Absent Policy

Students are fully responsible for making up any missed work due to an absence(s). When coming back from being absent, it is the student's responsibility to check with Ms. Beltran or a classmate regarding what was missed.

Plagiarism

Cheating/Plagiarism is NOT TOLERATED! Students giving or taking information from others will redo the assignment.

Contact Information

My email address is kbeltran@sjcoe.net or kbeltran@jsdtracy.com. If you need to get in contact with me after school regarding anything, please email me. I will get back to you quickly. I encourage students to email me from their school email if they have any questions about anything. If you need to call me, my phone number at school is (209)839-2380, extension 1132.



Important Class Website: www.beltranela.weebly.com

I am looking forward to my second year teaching 8th grade and getting to know each and every one of my kids. This year is a special one, and I'm excited to share that with each and every student. It is my job to ensure each student is ready for the demands of college and career in the future, and I take the responsibility seriously!

Cheers,

Ms. Beltran