



Grade 8 English Language Arts

Mrs. Stephanie Bangston

623-376-3343

stephanie.bangston@dvusd.org

Co-Teacher: Mrs. Claudine Tellez

claudine.tellez@dvusd.org

Welcome to Hillcrest Middle School. This is going to be a great year! I believe the best way to achieve success is through high expectations, preparedness and parent/teacher communication. Please check Canvas weekly for lesson plans, documents and important information. If at any time you have a question or concern, please contact me immediately. We are all on the same team.

SCHOOL MOTTO: RESPONSIBLE – RESPECTFUL – READY FOR THE FUTURE

All students are expected to be good citizens and to show respect and care for themselves, each other, staff, and materials. Students are also responsible to put forth their very best effort in school. Our combined goal is to prepare students for success, in school and beyond.

TEACHER WEBSITE

On my website is a link to Canvas where you will find lesson plans, documents and assignment requirements as well as some of the notes we take in class. Should your student be absent, all information regarding assignments can be found on Canvas.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

My expectations are that students will be prepared, respectful, and responsible for their own learning. That way, they'll grow into independent young people with a love of learning.

CURRICULUM

All assignments are based on Arizona College and Career Readiness standards, which are accessible on the Internet at <http://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/>, and are aligned with our district-approved curriculum. Throughout the year, we will be working on vocabulary development and 8th grade grammar standards. We will be doing several writing projects to improve our communication skills. Students will also improve their reading comprehension by reading a variety of novels, short stories, poetry and informational text. The use of the computer as a teaching tool will also be emphasized, particularly to communicate and share ideas.

GRADES

Student grades are category weighted as follows:

Assessments/projects (Also known as “Summative”)---70%

Assignments (Also known as “Formative”)---30%

***Extra Credit:** According to the Deer Valley Unified School District Promotion, Retention, Acceleration & Grading Handbook (p. 30), assignments for extra credit are not used.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Parents and students can check student progress through Power Schools. Barring unforeseen circumstances, grades will be posted in PowerSchools within one week of turning in an assignment. However, major writing assignments typically take two weeks to complete grading. Please note that grades in Canvas will be different from grades in Power Schools.

ABSENT WORK

When a student is absent, they are responsible for checking Canvas. If a student is absent, they will have one day PLUS one more day to make up the assignments. It is the student's responsibility to turn in any work collected on a day they are absent. Please see me with any questions or extenuating circumstances due to absences.

MTSS- B: BEHAVIOR

(The HMS School-Wide Prevention Program)

Our progressive discipline is based on the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) program.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a proper manner at all times. Specific guidelines are outlined in the DVUSD Student Rights and Responsibility (SR & R) Handbook. The school rules apply to coming to school, going home from school, and at all school-sponsored events. General misbehavior is handled by the classroom teacher in the following manner:

PROGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS

Step 1: Universal Interventions (Warning/Redirection)

Step 2: 1st Minor Incident Report with Interventions

Step 3: 2nd Minor Incident Report with Interventions and Parent Email

Step 4: 3rd Minor Incident Report with Interventions and Parent Phone Call

Step 5: Major Behavior Referral

Consequences for inappropriate behavior will be given according to the DVUSD discipline guidelines, as outlined in the Student Rights and Responsibility (SR & R) Handbook.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Unless otherwise stated, the expectation is that cell phones and headphones are in silent mode and remain in a bag or backpack for the entire class period. If a student is using their cell phone or ear buds during class, the Progressive Behavior Intervention steps listed above will be followed.

