



Grade 8 English Language Arts

Mrs. Stephanie Bangston

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Co-Teacher: Mrs. Claudine Tellez

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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 open communication. Please check Canvas weekly for lesson plans, documents and important information. If 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 ready for each class period, 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

Students in 3rd through 8th grades will receive marks for their proficiency toward the grade level standards using the following scale. Standards marks do not impact the course grade.

- 4 = Highly Proficient
- 3 = Proficient
- 2 = Partially Proficient
- 1 = Minimally Proficient
- NE = No evidence (missing work)

Assignment scores will be averaged to produce an overall course grade for the standard. The course grade will be based upon the following traditional letter grade scale:

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

Work will be entered into the gradebook within one of the following categories which will be weighted for calculation of the overall course grade.

ASSESSMENT = 80%
COURSEWORK = 20%
PRACTICE = 0%

An assignment is considered as missing work when it is not submitted by the due date. Missing work will be treated as such:

The assignment will be marked with the “Missing” special code in the gradebook.

A zero (“0”) will be entered as the score for the assignment in the gradebook.

No Evidence (NE) will be entered for the standards attached to the assignment.

If the work is submitted as Late Work, the zero (“0”) assignment score will be changed to reflect the student’s actual score with no deductions or penalties.

An assignment is considered late work when the assignment is not submitted by the due date that was established, but is submitted within certain parameters.

If a student meets the criteria, he/she will be issued full credit for the work submitted (no added penalties or caps on the grade that can be earned). The teacher will mark the student’s assignment with the “Late” special code. If the assignment is an assessment, the proficiency level of the standards attached will be entered.

If the work is not submitted as Late Work or does not meet conditions for Late Work, the score for the assignment will be a 49%.

In order for Late Work to be accepted, students must meet the following parameters:

- Assignment is not due within the class period
- Assignment is not a timed activity (such as a Quick-Write Essay)
- Assignment is not a Long-Term assignment (over multiple weeks)
- Assignment is turned in by within 5 school days of the end of the unit

***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.

GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS in Grades K-8

After careful consideration and in alignment with the developmental needs of our students and the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), DVUSD has determined that the use of Large Language Models (LLMs), such as ChatGPT, is not suitable for students in grades K-8 (under 13 years of age) and will not be utilized or endorsed in academic contexts.

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, my expectation is that cell phones are in silent mode and remain in the classroom cell-phone holder 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.

**Please return this signature page by Friday, August 11, 2023
(or within 3 days of new enrollment)**

We have read and reviewed Mrs. Bangston's classroom information and procedures for the 2022-2023 school year. The class syllabus, expectations, and procedures can be found on my teacher website, located on the Hillcrest Middle School website.

Student Name (print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (print): _____

Parent email: _____

Parent phone number: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Any additional information you want me to know about your child in order to help them be successful: _____
