



## *8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts Syllabus*

*Ms. St Louis*

*astlouis@pasco.k12.fl.us*

Welcome to the 21/22 school year! I am very excited to meet all my new students and families, and to get started learning! Students will read and analyze different literary genres including fiction, non-fiction, poetry and drama. Students will write expository, narrative, argumentative, and persuasive essays, as well as learn to develop ideas fully, organize them effectively, and express them clearly. Students will use speaking strategies effectively and understand the nature and power of language. Critical thinking is integrated into all components of the course therefore, students will engage in the learning process as critical and creative thinkers.

Below I have listed the supplies that are needed for my class, along with a few items on my wish list that would help me and the students out! As always, I appreciate your cooperation.

### **Supplies:**

- 1 ½ inch binder
- 1 Spiral notebook
- 1 Folder with prongs
- Pencils/pens
- Ear buds (plug-in type)
- Highlighters
- Colored pencils/markers
- 5 Binder dividers

### **Wish List:**

- Ream of printer paper
- Tissues
- Clorox wipes
- Hand sanitizer

### **Standards**

The new Florida B.E.S.T. Standards are integrated consistently throughout all units. Students will work with complex texts, (informational and literary) to write and support claims citing textual evidence. Students will identify, compare and analyze theme, author's craft, text structure, central ideas, and text features. Students will develop sophisticated writing skills, demonstrating mastery of language conventions, narrative techniques and organizational structures. Students will engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussion and present their findings in a focused, coherent manner. Students will navigate texts with challenging vocabulary and take ownership of vocabulary through word study.

### **Novel Studies**

Students will participate in quarterly thematic novel studies. Students will be notified of each quarter's book selection options prior to the start of the quarter or unit of study. Class sets will be available in the classroom, however, there may be times where I ask you to purchase a book for your child to complete the reading at home as we have multiple books to read and don't want to use all our class time together reading.

**Grading:**

Grades will be assigned using a points system. All assignments will be divided into two categories: assignments or assessments. Everything is weighted the same, although the points for assignments will vary, depending upon the assignment. Please refer to myStudent to track student grades and assignments.

**Assignments:**

The assignments category will include classwork and any extra credit or reading logs given.

**Classwork:**

Students will keep an Interactive Notebook. Some of their classwork will be completed in this notebook. Some entries will be graded for completion and participation, while others will be completed for accuracy. In addition, students will have assignments that are completed outside of their Interactive Notebook and turned in separately. At times, students will be offered specific extra credit related to the curriculum, as well as a chance to have a reading log for any books that they read outside of school.

**Assessments:**

Students will have assessments throughout the year to determine their proficiency level of a concept. These could be in a variety of formats, like a performance task, short response, essay, multiple choice, project, etc. Throughout the year, students will be given writing assignments and projects.

**Late Work:**

Students are expected to have their work in on time. Late work will be penalized with a reduction of points. If a student turns in something in late but within 4 days of the due date, there will be 15% taken off. If a student turns in the assignment on the 5<sup>th</sup> day or later, they will receive 50%. Late work will not be accepted after we complete the unit the assignment goes along with.

**Make-Up Work:**

If a student is absent, they will have two days per each absent day to make up an assignment. If they do not turn it in within those days, I will follow the late policy listed above.

**Quarantine Policy:**

If a student is quarantined, they will access the updated myLearning page, so they are able to follow along. All the resources such as assignments, assessments, and readings will be available to them through myLearning, this allows the student to not fall behind.

**Cell Phone Policy:**

Cell phones will not be used in the classroom, students will put them in a secure location by my desk when they enter the classroom and will get them at the end of class. If a student does not do this and they are using their device in class, it will be taken until the end of the period. If this happens 3 times a parent will be notified.

**Grade Scale:**

A= 90%-100%, B= 80%-89%, C= 70%-79%, D= 60%-69% = D, F= 59% and under.

**Contact Information:**

School phone number: (813) 346-1200 or email: astlouis@pasco.k12.fl.us

## **Student Rules and Behavioral Expectations:**

Students are expected to follow the behavior guidelines listed around Rushe, these will also be posted in the classroom and gone over with students. In addition, students will help me create classroom rules and guidelines in order to create a safe and respectful classroom that all students feel welcome and ready to learn.

## **Per Board Policy- 2240 - CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES**

The Board recognizes that a course of study or certain instructional materials may contain content and/or activities that some parents find objectionable. If after careful, personal review of the program lessons and/or materials, a parent indicates to the school that either the content or the activity conflicts with his religious beliefs or value system, the school will consider a written request for his child to be excused from a particular class for specified reasons. The student, however, will not be excused from participating in the course and will be provided alternate learning activities during times of such parent requested absences.

## **Staying Connected**

*We have many opportunities to stay connected with what is going on at school and in class. Here are some ways to keep connected.*

### **MyStudent:**

Parents and students should access daily to see upcoming assignments, missing work and scores on graded assignments.

### **MyLearning:**

Upcoming assignments will be listed on the calendar on the home page. The majority of all assignments will be in MyLearning. Students should never have any doubt as to what their assignment is, when it is due or whether or not they have turned it in. This is helpful in the case a student must go out on quarantine, they will be able to follow along and not miss any important information.

### **E-Mail:**

Students and parents may contact me with any concerns they have at: [astlouis@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:astlouis@pasco.k12.fl.us).

**Teacher reserves the right to amend the syllabus at any time.**

*Complete the following information, have your student take a picture of the form and please return to class.*

Dear Parent/Guardian(s),

I am honored to have your son/daughter in my class this year. It is my goal to expand their depth of knowledge in literary and informational text analysis and writing skills and show them the joys of being a life-long learner. Please read over the course syllabus and then print and sign your name, provide an e-mail address, and the best number to reach you during school hours on the lines provided. It is **due Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup>**.

Thank you,  
Mrs. Roth

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Print parent/guardian name

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Print student name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_