



8th Grade ELA Course Summary

| Course | Teacher | Conference | Time | Telephone | Room | E-mail |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| English 8 | Mrs. De La Fuente Mr. Gabriel Ambriz Mrs. Amy Pena Mrs. Khrystal Whitworth | | A-Day, B-Day, | 956-399-4358 | 101 107 | melissa.delafuente@stisd.net gabriel.ambriz@stisd.net amy.pena@stisd.net khrystal.whitworth@stisd.net |

Welcome to 8th Grade ELA! Together, we will make this a great and fruitful year.

Purpose: Our goal is to help you, the student, become a stronger writer, reader, and thinker using Pre-AP strategies in preparation for future AP course work.

Objective: Through this intensive study of grammar, composition, vocabulary, and analytical reading, you will be better prepared to think critically and communicate—orally and in writing—more potently and effectively than before this course.

Expectations:

1. Be punctual.
2. Be polite.
3. Be productive.
4. Be prepared.
5. Be positive.

Assignments:

1. Daily work and homework may include, but are not limited to, outside reading, vocabulary workshop, assignments, dialectical journals, grammar activities, and written compositions.
2. Quizzes will be given over assigned reading material and daily activities.
3. Accelerated Reader tests will be required each grading period. Reading is a daily homework requirement. A MINIMUM of 30 AR points is required every grading period (9 weeks).

4. Compositions will be classwork and/or homework. Some will be timed.
5. Tests are consistently administered throughout the quarter, and one final exam is administered at the end of the first semester and end of the year.
6. Expect some literature-related research and/or culminating literary unit assignments. Plagiarism will earn you a zero.
7. Summer reading will be the first novel studied, analyzed, and discussed. Please have your summer reading assignment completed by first day of class!

Needed Supplies: (Parents, if you have previously purchased supplies listed on RSA website, do NOT duplicate.)

1. ONE 100-page composition notebooks (college ruled)
2. One 1-inch binder
3. Black or Blue ink pens
4. #2 Pencils
5. Highlighters

AR Tests:

Students are required to read novels within their reading range and test on them using the Accelerated Reading program in the library. Failure to complete the required reading assignments will result in appropriate intervention and/ or failing grades.

Deadlines and the point value grade-equivalent scale will be distributed on the 1st day of school. AR reading deadlines end the day before end of grading periods. AR tests, quizzes and point accumulations are taken as tests grades, quiz grades and daily work grades at the discretion of your teacher.

Formative Assessment

Throughout the year, formative assessments are given to help plan, shape, and individualize student instruction. Formative assessments will be in the form of homework, written or oral quizzes, readings and discussion, or student writing and will give me feedback as to what material must be covered before tests or grades are given. These assessments will be included in the gradebook, but they will not affect a student's average.

Grading Procedures & Weights.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Tests/ Projects/ AR Reading | 35% |
| 2. Quizzes | 30% |
| 3. Classwork/ Homework/ Participation | 35% |
| 4. Formative | 0% |
| | <u>100%</u> |

Due Dates and Late Work

All work is due at the assigned time. All homework is due at the beginning of the class meeting unless otherwise stated. Assignments submitted electronically are due before the beginning of class time on the scheduled due date. (Students absent when work is due shall be given one school day for each day of excused absence to make up missing assignments.) Late work will receive no higher than a 70. If you do not understand an assignment or the material, please ask during class, so that I can clarify the matter. Also, email me if you have a question (see below). **Please note: Once an assignment has been graded and returned to students, it will no longer be accepted for credit.**

Provisions will be made for students needing support during after-school tutorial for 4:05-5:15. (Tutorial Days will be announced by 3rd week of school.)

The semester average includes two nine-week averages and the final exam grade. The semester final will be worth 25% of the semester average.

Retesting procedures: Students may retest upon receiving a grade below 70. A student needing to retest will be required to:

1) make corrections 2) meet with teacher to determine time and date for retests. The highest grade recorded for a retest will be 70. Retests are not given for quizzes, projects, Accelerated Reader tests, or semester final exams.

Pyramid of Interventions.

The objective of this class is for every student to successfully demonstrate mastery of the Texas Essential Knowledge and skills (TEKS) and the South Texas ISD Essential Learning Outcomes (ELO's) for Pre-AP English 8. Students not successfully progressing will be assisted by the in-class pyramid of interventions and the campus pyramid of interventions. These interventions may include additional class activities and assignments, required after school tutorial, and other interventions specifically designed to address student needs.

RSA ELA teachers are among the finest in the "business" of education! ☺ We look forward to getting to know you and your child as the year progresses. Together, we seek great learning opportunities, expand our intellectual horizons, and do all that we can to get your child to reach his/ her maximum potential as a thinker, reader, writer, and human being.