



8th Grade ELA Honors Course Summary

Welcome to 8th Grade ELA! We looking forward to a wonderfully successful year!

Purpose: Our goal is to help you, the student, become a stronger writer, reader, and thinker using College Board approved strategies in preparation for future Honors 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.

Instructors/ Team	Contact information
Mrs. Melissa De La Fuente Apollo Team 83	melissa.delafuente@stisd.net Remind Codes: Zoom Meeting Code: Zoom Meeting Password:
Mr. Gabriel Ambriz Apollo Team 83	gabriel.ambriz@stisd.net Remind Codes: Zoom Meeting Code: Zoom Password Code:
Mrs. Amy Pena Intergalactic Team 84	amy.pena@stisd.net Remind Codes: Zoom Meeting Code: Zoom Password:

RESPONSE TIMES & General Communication:

Most all of our communication will be via **email** and **Remind**. However, all email communications will be through the school (STISD) email server.

- Your instructor is committed to responding to you within a 24-hour period of time.
- Often, you will receive a response much sooner.
- If you do not receive a response within 24 hours, please reach out to your instructor.
- We expect the same commitment from you.
- You are expected check your school email account at least once a day.

Please respond to messages that require action or an answer within 48 hours.

Class Behavior & Expectations:

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

Netiquette (Online Etiquette) Statement

Please adhere to the same standards of behavior and professional respect online that you would follow in face-to-face communication with others, but most particularly when writing email and when taking part in collaborative and discussion board activities. Students are expected to adhere to the South Texas ISD Acceptable Use Policies when Using Networks.

Digital Citizenship Standards & Expectations

- Be on time.
- Wear proper attire.
- Choose a good location and be aware of your background of your video camera when you are in a meeting.
- Mute yourself right when you join and keep your microphone muted when you are not speaking
- Use the chat to ask questions and make comments related to the topic discussed.
- Give your full, focused attention
- Use respectful behavior and language
- Stick to appropriate topics of discussion
- Use only appropriate icons, emojis, and avatars
- Wear school appropriate clothing when participating in lessons or assemblies

GENERAL GUIDELINES TO RESPECT ALL PARTICIPANTS

- Respect the right of each person to disagree with others.
- Treat people the same as you would face-to-face.
- Respect the time of others.

GUIDELINES WHEN COMMUNICATING WITH OTHERS (EMAIL, DISCUSSIONS, BLOGGING, AND ETC.)

- Always sign your name to any contribution you choose to make.
- Be constructive in your responses to others in the class.
- Do not use all caps (Doing so may be interpreted as shouting).
- Re-read your postings before sending them.
- Always think before you write.
- Respond respectfully.
- Use appropriate grammar and structure.
- Spell-check your postings.
- Use short paragraphs focused on one idea.
- Use appropriate business language at all times

Supplies:

1. Electronic device (preferably a laptop or desktop computer)
2. Composition journal (for note-taking)
3. Pens (Black or blue ink)
4. One pocket folder (to keep informational handouts)

Grading Procedures & Weights:

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

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. Reading is a daily homework requirement. AR points and tests will earn you extra credit points (to be determined by your teacher). Students will complete an AR reading project every semester for a major grade. Yes, you still have to read for AR!
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.

Formative Assessments:

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 greater insight into student learning and/or gaps in the learning. These assessments will be included in the gradebook, but they will not affect a student's average. *** At times students will show great progress and teachers may consider upgrading from Formative to Test or Quiz. This is based on teacher discretion and student agreement. ***

Participation Requirements: Students are expected to follow their school schedule and meet online with their teacher throughout the week via the Zoom ([see code information above](#)) or Microsoft TEAMS. Participation in daily lessons include: enabling camera, entering responses into the chat box when asked to do so, and completing daily assignments and tasks on the ItsLearning platform.

Note: Online discussions are an opportunity for you to interact with and learn from your peers. The class will regularly engage in conversations about the course content. You will receive credit for your participation in these academic discussions. You are expected to post thoughtful, respectful, and well-written responses to the discussion questions and reply thoughtfully to at least two other students per discussion unless otherwise instructed by your teacher.

Its Learning & EMC

This course requires the use of ItsLearning, an online learning platform similar to Blackboard. All class announcements, assignments and tasks will be posted weekly. All assignments will be submitted electronically in this course, or through our digital textbook platform EMC.

AR Tests:

Students are required to read novels within their reading range and test on them through the Accelerated Reading program. AR point accumulations are taken as extra credit. AR tests taken may also be applied to a student's grade as per teacher discretion.

Students are also required to complete a book project that reflects deep understanding and literary analysis on an AR book of their choice each semester. This project is worth major test grade and two possible daily grades. In addition, the AR program tracks the number of words read by students and this word count will go towards our 5-STAR Reader challenge.

Late Work Policy:

All work is to be turned in on time. In the event of a documented emergency/ absence, late work will be accepted. It is the student who is responsible for turning in his/ her assignments at the scheduled time and date OR for making alternate arrangements with the teacher in the event of emergency/ absence. If there are extenuating circumstances, the teacher may—at his/ her discretion—allow a student to turn in “late work” However, the highest score a student can earn on late work is a grade of 70%. If a student chronically attempts to turn in late work, the teacher will, of course, make the decision that late work will no longer be permitted, and a parent conference will be called to make parents/ guardians aware of the teacher’s concerns.

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:

Retesting is a privilege that is extended to a student who has failed a major exam/assessment. Additional assigned material may be a prerequisite to taking a retest, and the teacher determines the time and date of all retesting. Retests are usually offered after school during tutorial sessions; they are not offered during class time in order to ensure that students do not fall further behind with course pacing.

Note: It is your responsibility to make contact with your teacher to discuss your retesting options.

***Pop-quizzes, quizzes, and final exams may not be retaken.

*** A maximum grade of 70% may be obtained on all exam retests.

Attendance:

Students must check in daily to receive credit for the course.

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 (ELOs) for English 1 Honors. 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