



Grade 8 English Language Arts

Mrs. Chau (Literature & Vocabulary) and Ms. Whitaker (Writing & Grammar)

Course Description

The purpose of this language arts class is to increase communications skills through reading, writing, speaking, and the study of the English language. It includes narrative, explanatory, and argumentative writing styles, demonstration of the rules of grammar, and the ability to express oneself effectively through various mediums of communication. We will read fiction and non-fiction text including novels, short stories, and essays. Vocabulary will also be a component of this class.

Units of study will include the following:

Writing	Grammar	Literature
1. Narrative Writing	1. Capitalization and Spelling	1. <i>The Fellowship of the Ring</i>
2. Argumentative Writing	2. Effective Sentences and Structure	2. <i>Night</i>
3. Expository Writing	3. Nouns and Pronouns	3. <i>The Outsiders</i>
		4. <i>William Shakespeare's Henry V</i>

Textbooks

- Sadlier Grammar for Writing Grade 8*
- Sadlier Vocabulary Workshop Level C*
- Pearson MyPerspectives Grade 8*
- Writing Our Catholic Faith Grade 8*

Required Materials/Supplies

- School-issued iPad (charged)
- Three 3-prong folders with pockets (one for each trimester)
- Pen, pencil, colored pencils and highlighters

Organization

1. Online notes and assignments through OneNote, digital textbook and other Microsoft Office 365 tools (invited by Ms. Whitaker and Mrs. Chau) – please do not create your own Language Arts notebook)
2. Worksheets, interactive notebook components, some formative assessments & all summative assessments/rubrics will be kept in the designated ELA folder.
3. All assignments must have the name, student number, date, homeroom, subject, and JMJ (Jesus, Mary, and Joseph).

<i>Example:</i>	<i>ELA</i>	<i>JMJ</i>	<i>Student Name and Number</i>
	<i>8A</i>		<i>Date</i>

Accelerated Reader (AR)

Library/Media Skills is an ELA subskill on MTC Diocesan Report Card. The grade earned in Library/Media skills is based on the Accelerated Reading (AR) goal percentage achieved. For grades 3-8, AR goals are based on the STAR Reading assessment, average percent correct and selected minutes of daily reading.

The Library/Media Skills Grading Scale:

- 4 = Student achieved 100 percent of their AR Goal
- 3 = Student achieved 90 – 99 percent of their AR Goal
- 2 = Student achieved 80 – 89 percent of their AR Goal
- 1 = Student achieved below 79 percent of their AR Goal

Children are encouraged to “reach for the stars” by going beyond the Renaissance Learning Accelerated Reading Goal. Students in grade 4-8 must earn a grade of “3” or “4” in Library/Media skills to be eligible for Honor Roll. Students may take AR quizzes in the morning from 7:00 – 7:30 a.m. They can also take quizzes during library time and open library time. (Open library time schedule to follow). Children in grades 4-8 are not to take quizzes in the classroom. They must have their AR log with them so the teacher can sign off on the grade and points.

Handwriting

Handwriting is an ELA subskill on the MTC Diocesan Report Card. The grade earned in Handwriting is based on work from the *Writing Our Catholic Faith* workbook. Students must earn a grade of “3” or “4” in Handwriting to be eligible for Honor Roll and will be graded according to the following rubric.

Quality Feature	4 Terrific	3 Good Job	2 Pretty Good	1 Needs Work
On the line	All letters are on the line	Less than two letters per sentence over or under line	No more than four letters per sentence over or under line	Many letters over or under line
Good form	All letters are correctly formed	Less than two letters per sentence are incorrectly formed	No more than four letters per sentence are correct	Letters are not formed correctly in most words
Even Spacing (Words & Letters)	Even spacing between letters and words	No more than two examples of uneven spacing between letters or words	No more than four examples of uneven spacing between letters or words	Uneven spacing between letters and most words
Even Slant	All letters and words show consistent slant in one direction	Letters show slant in one consistent direction at least 90% of the time	Letters show slant in one consistent direction at least 75% of the time	Letters slant to the left, to the right, or go up and down
Neat Work	Demonstrated all of the above qualities and has no erasures or cross-outs	Work is all within margins, and there are fewer than two cross outs or erasures	Work is generally aligned within margins, and fewer than five erasures or cross outs	Many erasures, cross outs, and/or work unevenly sprawled all over the paper

Scoring for Penmanship Rubric

- 20 – 18 = A (4)
- 17 – 15 = B (3)
- 14 – 12 = C (2)
- 11 – 9 = D (1)

Additional Assistance

We will hold a weekly ZOOM session from 3:45 to 4:15pm by appointment. These sessions will be to answer specific questions, not to reteach an entire unit. Students should be prepared with their questions in advance.

Communication

- Email: lchau@mtctampa.org
mwhitaker@mtctampa.org
Emails are returned within 24-48 hours during school days.
- Microsoft Teams: Homework assignments will be posted/updated daily. Tests and quizzes will be posted one week in advance.
- RenWeb: Grades will be updated weekly.

Behavior and Classroom Expectations

The MTC middle grades conduct expectations and point sheet will be utilized to cultivate good behavioral and learning habits, as detailed in the family handbook. Demerits will be recorded on the point sheet in front of the planner, as well as on RenWeb.