

## Mrs. Lamothe's 8th Grade English Class

### Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome to 8th grade! Listed below is information that is important to know to ensure a happy and productive year:

**Course Content and Expectations:** Eighth grade English will focus on reading, writing, speaking and critical thinking. Reading will be a combination of selections from the text: McDougal Little's *The Language of Literature*, class novels, Independent novels, and other non-fiction selections to supplement thematic units of study. Students will study vocabulary from their independent novels and selections from the text. The writing portion of the course will consist of both informal writing in journals, papers written in different genres, and a formal research project in conjunction with social studies class during the 2nd term. Students will also have the opportunity to speak often in collaborative group discussions and individually as we analyze and enjoy literature and writing throughout the year. The expectation is that as the year progresses, students' ability to write and speak fluently about literature will improve.

### *Components of Class*

**Papers and Tests:** Papers vary in length and form. Examples: a 2-page memoir, a poem in response to literature, a paragraph of literary analysis, a 1 page book review about their SSR book, a movie review and a 5 page research paper. Papers in this category tend to require some time in and out of class and multiple drafts are completed. The goal is to complete 3-4 pieces/term including a book review every term. Tests are rare, but occasional.

**Journals:** Journals are used to learn to think critically, promote fluency in writing and to encourage creativity. Prompts include quotes from text being studied, questions about a theme being discussed, poetry used as models, personal connections to self or other texts, and ideas for creative writing.

**Quizzes:** This category includes quizzes on literary terms, grammar, MCAS prompts, vocabulary and reading.

**Homework: Expect homework most nights.** Homework will be posted on my website each night and recorded daily in Jupiter grades. We then go over it in class. In the case of journals, it will be checked, and then submitted for an evaluation of quality several times/term. **Homework completed on the day it is due receives 100% credit. One day late receives 50% credit. After that, it will not be accepted.** Homework may consist of vocabulary, journals, reading, grammar and papers.

**Class Participation:** During small group and whole class discussions, students have the opportunity to practice engaging in meaningful conversations about literature. It is important to follow appropriate rules of discourse and respect the opinions of classmates. Staying focused and following the rules earns students an easy 100% towards their participation grade. Students who are off task once, however, will receive a grade of 75% and twice a grade of 0%.

### *Grading*

**Grade Distribution:** Papers and Tests 30%, Journals 10%, Quizzes 30%, Homework 20%, Participation 5%.

### *Absences/Missing Work*

Students have one day to make up work for each day missed. Since all assignments are posted online, it is recommended that students bring missing homework to class on the day they return so as not to fall behind.

### *Keys To Success in this Class:*

- Attend school prepared to learn
- Pay attention and take responsibility for your own progress
- Be respectful to both your teacher and your peers
- Work hard in and out of class

## TANTASQUA REGIONAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

### Communication with Teacher

To keep lines of communication open, and optimize student success, please avail yourself of the following methods of contact:

**My Website:** Please visit my website often as it is updated daily with all classwork and homework assignments. Although assignments are also posted on the board in class, students and parents find this resource very helpful throughout the year. In an attempt to reduce paper, all homework assignments will be posted here for student's to access. Please see attached form if you do not have consistent internet access.

**Jupiter Grades:** I leave my grade book open for students and parents to check student progress. This leaves few surprises, and helps students and parents keep track of missing work. A form will be sent home from your child's math teacher to sign up for access to all your student's classes. If you forget your password, please contact me to reset it for you.

**Email:** [lamothel@tantasqua.org](mailto:lamothel@tantasqua.org).

**Phone:** (508)347-7381

**Late Night:** Tuesday

### Supplies Needed:

- (2) One subject spiral-bound notebooks, college ruled, 100 pages (one for each half of the year)
- 200 Index cards (3X5 inch size)
- 2-Pocket folder (the plastic ones hold up the best)

Not required, but handy to have:

Hole punch

Stapler

- I have read Mrs. Lamothe's 8th grade course expectations.
- I **do or do not have (Circle one)** consistent internet access to check Jupiter grades and homework assignments.

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent or guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

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