



King George Middle School

English 8 Syllabus



Course description: *The Grade 8 English program provides instruction in all aspects of language arts, including reading, writing, and speaking. Literary elements, including character, plot, theme, point of view, mood and figurative language will be analyzed in a variety of narrative text and poetry. In addition, author's purpose, tone, text structure, and viewpoint will be evaluated in informational text including articles, essays, and speeches. Reading skills will emphasize comprehension and critical thinking. The writing process will be utilized to produce expository and persuasive writing with attention to composition, word choice, and mechanics. Students will take the English SOL Reading and the English SOL Writing tests.*

Teacher: Mrs. Jennifer Brobjorg, jbrobjorg@kgcs.k12.va.us

Teacher websites are accessible from the KGMS home page and are updated weekly.

Textbook: Holt McDougal Literature Grade 8 (Online textbook web address: my.hrw.com)

- Students will receive additional online textbook login information in the first week of school.

Independent Reading: Students will be reading 15 self-selected books during the year to increase their reading motivation, vocabulary, and stamina. A minimum of 1 hour each week will be provided during school, and the rest of the reading will be completed as a standing homework assignment everyday. Students are expected to have their self-selected reading book with them at all times. Additional information will be provided during the first week of school.

- Quarter 1: 4 books required
- Quarter 2: 4 books required
- Quarter 3: 4 books required
- Quarter 4: 4 books required

Oral Communication (SOL 8.2)

- Teacher Conferences- Students will conference with the teacher at least three times each quarter to assess book selection, engagement, and understanding. In addition, brief journal entries will be used to document understanding.
- Socratic seminars/debates

Writing: In addition to less formal classroom writing (journals, exit tickets, etc), students will write at least ten multi-draft essays. Students will be supported by teacher and peer feedback throughout the writing process. Students will keep a "writer's notebook" in class that will serve many purposes such as: quickwrites, writer's palette, academic writing responses, independent novel responses.

My Access: Eighth grade students will have additional opportunities to practice essay writing in preparation for the Writing SOL test using an online writing program. Students will receive guidance during prewriting activities, and they will often begin the essays on computers during class to allow for teacher feedback and conferencing. Completion of the essays will sometimes be assigned for homework. The computer program scores the essays (see scale below), and opportunities for revision and resubmission are offered.

- www.myaccess.com Student numbers are the ID, and **kgms** as the password.

NOREDINK: Students will be assigned an account for an online training program. The program has modules, and activities that students will use to prepare for the Writing SOL in March. They will receive their account information during the first two weeks of school. Students will be given opportunities to improve grades and earn bonuses for completion of certain modules.

- www.noredink.com

Grading:

KGCS Grading Scale		MyAccess Grading Scale	
A	100-90	10/10	5.5-6.0
B	89-80	9/10	5.0-5.4
C	79-70	8/10	4.0-4.9
D	69-60	7/10	3.0-3.9
F	59 and below	6/10	2.0-2.9
		5/10	1.0-1.9
		0/10	NO SUBMISSION

Late Work: Students are expected to turn in work by the assigned due date. ONE late pass will be allowed each quarter. Students may use this exception to submit one completed late assignment each quarter. Any other work not submitted by the due date will receive a zero. Per school policy, **five days** are allowed for students to submit make-up work following an absence.

Materials Needed:

- Self-selected reading book at all times
- Two marble composition notebooks (not spiral bound)
- Loose-leaf paper
- Pencils, pens, highlighters
- Sticky notes (multicolored if possible)
- Flash drive/USB drive (may be shared with other classes or purposes)

****Extra credit: Students can earn extra credit via two ways: a benchmark score of 70 or higher and/or an increase in their SRI score. No other extra credit will be offered. Students are afforded plenty of opportunities to show mastery of the English curriculum. Student performance and achievement will be strictly reflective of their earned grades.**

Technology: Students will be using the internet to access the online textbook, My Access, Google Classroom, NOREDINK, and other resources. If your child does not have internet access at home, please make sure to communicate this to the teacher so that other arrangements can be made.

In accordance with the BYOD policy in King George County Schools, students will be permitted to use personal devices during school for instructional purposes as specified by the teacher.