

Course Description:

This one-year course provides instruction in the English Language Arts strands identified by the Nevada Academic Content Standards as reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. This course is designated as accelerated by the enhanced instructional pacing and depth of content. This course is designed to build on knowledge and skills through close reading of texts, learning combining elements of different kinds of writing in support of analysis and reflection, and class discussions. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills the eighth grade English requirement. *Courtesy of

Course Goals:

1. To read and analyze a wide variety of complex text (informational, fiction and non-fiction, expository) independently and proficiently. [RL.8.1-7, 9-10; RI.8.1-7; W.8.1-8; SL.8.3; L.8.1]
2. To respond, reflect, or analyze in writing or speaking with a focus on: how an author develops text structure to contribute to meaning, style and development of key concepts; identifying relevance and sufficiency of evidence used to support a claim; and the way in which the writer or speaker uses structure, word choice, and syntax to make points clear, convincing, and engaging. [RL.8.5; RI.8.5; W.8.1-8; SL.8.3; L.8.1]
3. To demonstrate a command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. [W.8.4-5; SL.8.6; L.8.1-3]
4. To support ideas by conducting short research projects, gathering relevant information, and generating related, focused ideas from multiple print and digital sources to use as evidence whether writing or speaking. [RL.8.1; RI.8.1; W.8.7-9; SL.8.1]
5. To synthesize information from multiple resources in support of a thesis/claim, use quotes or paraphrase data accurately, and follow a standard format for citations. [RL.8.1; RI.8.1; W.8.1-2, 4, 8-9; SL.8.1a, 2-4, 6; L.8.1-3, 6]
6. To analyze the elements of text, selected from a range of eighth grade text literary and informational exemplars, to understand how authors use structure, word choice, and point of view to develop theme or main idea, create drama, and advance the meaning or style of a text. [RL.8.1-6; RI.8.1-6; W.8.1-2; SL.8.4; L.8.4-6]
7. To analyze the purposes and characteristics of the major genres of text (e.g., prose, poetry, drama, literary non-fiction). [RL.8.1-7, 9-10; RI.8.1-10; W.8.1-3]
8. To apply the general strategies of organization and focus, revision, and word choice to produce writing (e.g., argument, expository, narration) appropriate to task, purpose, and audience whether over time or under a tight deadline. [W.8.1-10]

*For a specific pacing guide, please see attached.

<https://curriculum.wiki-teacher.com/curriculumDocument.php?id=5195>

1. Evaluation

A variety of activities will be given throughout the year. Each assignment will be categorized under one of the following:

Formative Assessments: class work and other tasks that take place during the learning process = (40%) of the quarter grade.

Summative Assessments: Quizzes, tests, major writings, cumulative presentations, and projects that measure what the student has learned = (60%) of the quarter grade.

a. **Semester exams will be worth 20% of the SEMESTER grade**

- Semester exams will not be administered early. Students who are absent may make-up their exams on the district approved make-up day.

b. **Explanation of student grades**

A	100 – 90%
B	89 – 80%
C	79 – 70%
D	69 – 60%
F	59 and below

c. **How and when students will be advised of their grades**

- Parents and students are urged to check the Infinite Campus Portal for grades regularly.

Citizenship/behavior expectations: Students are expected to adhere to the tenets of the Patriot Pact. When students struggle, they will be held accountable using progressive discipline. This may include verbal warnings, lunch detentions, after school detentions, calls home, and referrals to the dean's office. On report cards, this is what each citizenship category represents:

OUTSTANDING

- Demonstrates self-control
- Follows directions the first time given; comes to class with proper supplies; listens attentively; ready to start on time.
- Works hard, takes initiative; asks for help when needed
- Does not disrupt class or cause distractions
- Frequently goes out of way to help other students
- Actively participates in class discussions

SATISFACTORY

- Frequently demonstrates self-control
- Follows directions; comes to class with proper supplies; good listener; frequently asks for help when needed
- Hardly ever disrupts the class
- Demonstrates a willingness to help other students
- Frequently participates in class discussions

NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

- Usually pays attention in class, often distracts or is distracting to other students
- Seldom follows directions the first time given; often unprepared; listens inconsistently
- Stops distracting others only when reminded repeatedly
- Rarely participates in class discussions

UNSATISFACTORY

- Rarely pays attention in class; often distracted or is distracting others
- Does not follow directions; seldom prepared with materials or work; does not listen to adult directions or advice
- Must be personally reminded to focus on classroom activities; seldom asks for help relevant to classroom tasks
- Rarely appears engaged in learning
- Visits the dean due to serious, inappropriate classroom behavior

Late Work Policy

- Late work will be allowed but restrictions will be placed as the year moves forward.
 - The policy will be as follows:
 - First quarter work will be accepted up until the last full week of the quarter accompanied by an appropriate late penalty.
 - Second quarter work will be accepted up to two weeks after the due date accompanied by an appropriate late penalty. Assignments due the last week of the quarter will NOT be accepted late.
 - Third quarter work will be accepted up to one week after the due date accompanied by an appropriate late penalty. Assignments due the last week of the quarter will NOT be accepted late
 - Fourth quarter work will be accepted up to three days late accompanied by an appropriate late penalty. Assignments due the last week of the quarter will NOT be accepted late.

**Long term assignments and activities will incur a substantial late penalty and may or may not be accepted.*

Test retake policy -A student may only retake a test if:

- All assignments have been turned in.
- The student has asked for help, clarification, or exhibited evidence of further studying and a further mastery of the subject matter. Another assignment on the topic must be completed before a retake is allowed.
- The retake test will not be the same test that was first given and can't be taken during class time.
- An adjusted grade will be given based on the new score.

Absence Policy

- Teachers shall provide an opportunity for a student to make up missed work due to any absence, and students shall be held accountable for the work. When a student is absent, however, the educational experiences lost during that absence might be irretrievable because the instruction and interaction in the instructional setting cannot be duplicated through makeup work.
- **After any absence, a secondary student is required to initiate contact with the teacher(s) to obtain appropriate makeup work within three school days immediately following the absence. Once contact has been made with the teacher(s), specific makeup work must be completed and returned to the teacher(s) within a reasonable length of time, to be determined by the teacher and communicated to the student/parent or legal guardian. The makeup work must be returned to the teacher(s) by the specified due date if it is to be acknowledged. **Students shall be allowed a minimum of three (3) days to complete makeup work.****
- Students are responsible for coming to the teacher AFTER checking Google Classroom and speaking with their peers at an appropriate time. I will always be understanding and will work with students who are absent, but I fully expect students to take charge of their own education.
- Work that was assigned before student was absent is still due at the same time or when the student returns. No extra days are given if they are absent and work has already been assigned.
- District Policy: https://www.ccsd.net/district/policies-regulations/pdf/51113_R.pdf

BEHAVIOR- Progressive Discipline

- 1st Incident – Verbal warning
- 2nd Incident - Citizenship points will be deducted
- 3rd Incident – Written contact to parent via email
- 4th Incident – Counselor referral
- 5th Incident – Deans' referral

Supplies needed for this course

- 1 composition notebook or spiral notebook for daily writing and note taking
- Pens
- Mechanical Pencils and lead
- Lined (loose) paper
- 1 *charged* school-issue iPad
- Kleenex
- Clorox Wipes
- Hand Sanitizer

Utilizing technology to learn

- At Leavitt, we want to encourage the daily use of technology in and out of the classroom to further enhance the educational experience. As such, Leavitt will be providing students with individual devices in all grades to utilize in class and at home. Students will also be provided with a Google email address to correspond with their teacher and classmates on projects, as well as to turn in assignments. Students may choose to utilize their own electronic tablets (iPads, Kindle Fire, Samsung, etc.) laptops, and reading devices for educational purposes. *SmartPhones will not be an acceptable device for technology use in the classroom.* Please be reminded that your student is responsible for the safety of their personal device and must utilize the district's Wifi to ensure their internet safety. All use of these devices will be for educational purposes and must be approved by the individual teacher.
- *The use of technology in the classroom is a privilege that can and will be taken away if used inappropriately.*

Teacher's hours of availability

8:35 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. with prior arrangement due to parent conferences – Wednesdays excluded
3:21 P.M. – 3:40 P.M. with prior arrangement due to parent conferences.

Remind 101 Policy

- I will send out reminders about assignments throughout the year, but sometimes I will not. Ultimately the student is responsible for knowing the due dates.
- I will do my very best to respond to questions and concerns in a timely manner.
- I will not respond between the hours of 8PM-8AM.

Contact Information

- Please email me at spiezgm@nv.ccsd.net with questions or concerns. I will get back to you within 24 hours.
- You can also call at 799-4699 and leave a message. Please give 24 hours for a return phone call.
- If you signed up with Remind101 you can also contact me in that way. Codes will be given out on the first day of school.