

# BCMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA

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Remind: Text the message [@gh9k3h](https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/0029va9k3h) to [81010](https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/0029va9k3h) for text notifications.

Website: [www.bcmstorchela.weebly.com](http://www.bcmstorchela.weebly.com)

Google Classroom: <https://classroom.google.com/u/1/c/MTE1Njk4OTAwMjM1> (Class Code—nn6elj4)

## Welcome

Welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA! I am Mrs. Howard and have been teaching English and writing since 2005. I have taught students in all grades from 6-12. My years of teaching have given me a thorough understanding of the skills students need to be successful not only in this class but in the English classes to come. I am extremely excited to see what amazing things unfold as the year progresses.

## Course Description

This course is designed to expose students to selected readings from authors around the globe. During the year, students will cover drama, poetry, short stories, and novels, both fictional and non-fictional. Students will also complete a variety of writing assignments throughout the year, as writing is a key component of English and an essential skill for life. Through reading, writing, and thinking, students will prepare for high school English courses and for life beyond school, acquiring habits and skills necessary for success in college and the working world.

## Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will demonstrate competence in:

- ❖ writing (writing in a variety of styles and for a variety of purposes)
- ❖ grammatical and mechanical conventions in written composition
- ❖ reading comprehension and literary analysis
- ❖ acquiring new vocabulary
- ❖ class discussions and debates
- ❖ group work and interpersonal skills

## Classwork/Homework

All work must be turned in on time to receive full credit. Homework assignments or projects are due at the beginning of the period on the assigned day (not the next day, later in the day, or later in the same period). Points will be deducted for lateness (10 points per day). All work must be submitted in a neat and orderly fashion. Sloppy or illegible work will be returned ungraded. (If I can't read it, I can't grade it.)

## Make Up Work

Students have three (3) days to make up any assignments after an absence. Students are responsible for checking with me to see what assignments were missed and then get those assignments completed in a timely fashion. When and if possible, check with me before an absence in an effort to stay ahead on your assignments while you are out. It is up to you to get your assignments made up and turned in on time.

## Late Work

As stated previously, the late penalty is 10 points deducted per day after the assignment's due date. I happily accept late assignments. My motto is, "some points are always better than no points." Assignments can be turned in late up until an official grade report is printed by the school. At that point, all missing assignments before the report was printed are permanent. Please be aware of the late work deadlines during the school year.

## **Grading**

The grading system for the upcoming school year is the same as has been used previously. Grades will be calculated on four nine week periods. I will send progress reports home periodically during each nine week period. Grades will be based on the following:

60%--Summative assessments (unit tests, benchmarks, formal essays, projects, etc.)

30%--Formative assessments (journals, vocabulary quizzes, reading quizzes, mini-projects, etc.)

10%--Classwork/homework (rough drafts, reading checks, vocabulary checks, etc.)

## **Class Procedures**

- ❖ Arrive on time every day, dressed appropriately. (If you haven't following one of these rules, expect me to say something . . . as often as it takes.)
- ❖ Bring your own supplies and assignments to class. Don't ask your peers for supplies.
- ❖ Make an effort to participate in class. This includes listening and adding to the discussions when you have something worthwhile to say. (Individual student conversations interfere with teaching and learning, so don't.)
- ❖ Place purses on the floor or under your desk during class. (This removes any temptations you may have.)
- ❖ Do your work faithfully and without complaining or accept the consequences without complaining. Do not beg for mercy or attempt to negotiate grades.
- ❖ Do your part to keep the classroom clean. Trash cans are an amazing invention made for people to put their garbage in. Locate them and use them when you need to. (No one likes to find used tissues on the desk when they get to class. It's gross.)
- ❖ As class ends, make sure that you put all books back where they came from or at least underneath the desk. (This includes literature textbooks, novels, dictionaries, etc.)
- ❖ All creative writing assignments should be school appropriate. (While I encourage you to be creative and explore different ideas, the ideas should be appropriate for any of the other faculty members to hear or read.)
- ❖ THROWING is ABSOLUTELY prohibited. I will not risk your well being in my class; therefore, NOTHING will be thrown. If you are giving something to another student, hand it to them or pass it to them. If you are throwing trash away in the trash can, do not throw it. Simply walk to the trash can and drop it in. I allow one warning. Lunch detention will be assigned for any throwing beyond the warning.

## **Cell Phone Procedures**

I know most of my students have cell phones, however, they are not to be out in class unless I have given you permission to use them. (I don't use mine in class, so you don't use yours.) If you need to know the time, check the clock on the wall. The first time I see the phone, I will give a verbal warning. The second time, I may ask you to hand the phone over to remove the distraction.

## **Class Rules**

- ❖ Bring all needed materials to class daily. (You are middle school students, and as such, I will not provide you with materials for my class. You can, however, borrow one of my "special pens" while they last.)
- ❖ Respect one another. (This includes their belongings, opinions, and ideas.)
- ❖ Speak at appropriate times, using appropriate voice, and language. (This is an English class, in which discussions are vital. While I encourage you to speak up with your ideas and opinions, I also encourage you to hear others out and respect them.)
- ❖ Follow all other school rules.

## **Positive Consequences**

- ❖ Positive parent contact
- ❖ Self-respect and the respect of others
- ❖ Reward coupons

## **Negative Consequences**

- ❖ Parent contact
- ❖ Lunch detention
- ❖ Office referral

I have read the class syllabus. I understand and agree to follow the class procedures, rules, and consequences.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Class

I have read the class syllabus. I understand the classroom rules and procedures and agree to encourage my child to follow them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

What is your preferred way to be contacted (when necessary)? \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you prefer to receive text messages?            YES            NO

Parent/Guardian Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact (Name & Number): \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any medical conditions or issues I need to be aware of? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Does the student have access to the internet at home?            YES            NO