Grade 8 – Language Arts

2018-2019 Syllabus

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| Location | When Class Meets | How to Contact |
| Mr. Ledet  Room 302 | Planning Periods (2:00 – 3:20, days T, Th) | [sledet@qiss.org.cn](mailto:sledet@qiss.org.cn)  Main Office: Tel: 86-532-6889-8888 or 86-532-8890-9802 |
| Class Websites: [www.mrledetqiss.weebly.com](http://www.mrledetqiss.weebly.com)  [www.schoology.com](http://www.schoology.com) | | |

* Welcome to English Language Arts!

*“What’s the point of this class? Why do we have to take Language Arts? What are we going to learn here?”*

The reason to take Language Arts is to become better thinkers and communicators. Our goals are to understand what it’s like to be human and to express our understanding. For example, are you interested in how to be brave? Do you want to understand what causes and what it’s like to be poor? Do you want to understand what friendship means? What’s the best way to live? All of these questions require you to think deeply about being a human being. And they require you to think about what kind of person you want to be. Finally, all of them require you to learn how to express what you think. So, yes, a big part of what you’ll learn in this class will be how to listen, speak, read and write in English. We’ll read all kinds of texts, like books, news, magazines, poems and plays. We’ll also watch videos and listen to music. We’ll learn vocabulary and grammar, how to summarize a writer’s point of view and compare it to our own, and many other language skills. Be assured that all of what we’ll do will make you more capable of achieving the life you want to live.

* This year, the themes of our unit of study will include…
  + The Omnivore’s Dilemma and Food Sustainability
  + What’s Wrong with the World? (Independent research project)
  + The Hero’s Journey
  + Comic Con!
* I expect you to…
  + **Think!** Think about everything you read, hear, say and do in this class. To do well in this class your mind must be alert.
  + **Ask questions!** I can’t read your mind. And you won’t learn if you don’t speak up. Shyness is NOT an excuse for not learning. Culture is NOT an excuse for not asking questions. It takes courage to ask questions. I expect you to be brave.
  + **Come to class with all materials.** Everything you will need is listed below. I expect you to bring all of it to class every day.
  + **Do your homework and hand it in on time**. I don’t want to hear excuses, especially:
    - My internet wasn’t working…
    - My family was on vacation…
    - I was at ACAMIS…
    - I was doing work for another teacher…
  + **Respect everyone and everything.** When someone is speaking in class, give the person ALL of your attention; you need to both listen and look at them. If you want to speak in class, raise your hand and wait for me to call on you.
  + **Always be your best you.** That means doing the best work you are capable of. That also means being the best person you know how to be, like being kind and helpful to others.
  + **Manage your time and materials.** This means keeping all of your materials and papers organized. It also means knowing all of your assignments, when they are due, and creating a place and time to work on them EVERY DAY.
  + **Speak English.**  You will not improve your English by speaking your native language more than English. If you must have translation, raise your hand to ask for it.
  + **Understand instructions completely before beginning a task.** Too often, students think they know what to do on an assignment before they finish listening to or reading instructions. And then they get it wrong! And they waste time, too.
  + **Be productive.** Do not waste time in this class. I expect you to be working the whole time you are in class.
  + **Tell me your concerns**. If you have a complaint or concern, I expect you to tell me about it personally. Speak to me before you speak to anyone else about it. I will do the same for you: If I have a concern about you, I will tell you about it first before I tell your parents, other teachers or principals. Be assured, I will listen to you, and I will do everything I can to reasonably address your concern.
* You can expect me to…
  + Listen to you.
  + Have fun along with you.
  + Explain how your assignments will be graded before you start them.
  + Give you clear instruction and examples.
  + Give you timely feedback after you hand in assignments.
  + Give you meaningful challenges.
  + Give you reasonable help when you ask for it.
* Required Materials:
  + 2 pocket folder
  + Pencils, black, blue and red pens
  + Highlighters
  + Spiral notebook
  + Vocabulary Journal
  + Writing Journal
  + Homework Journal
  + Internet device (laptop or smartphone)
  + USB Flashdrive
* Grading and other Policies:

**QISS grading policy for the 8th grade** requires a weighted average distribution of:

* + 60% formative assessments
  + 40% summative assessments.

For **letter grades and percentages**, please consult the QISS Student Handbook, page 8.

Please also consult the QISS student handbook for a detailed description of **other classroom policies** including tardiness, academic honesty, bullying, homework, standards of acceptable work, and others.

**Late work** will be accepted according to the policy described in the QISS Student Handbook:

* -20% on the first day; -10% for each day late up to -50%
* Assignments handed in more than 10 days late or not handed in at all will receive a score of 0%.

**MISSED ASSIGNMENTS ARE THE STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY**. I will not seek you out to tell you about your missing assignments. You need to come find me as soon as you return from an absence.

**Time to hand in missed assignments** due to excused absence will be equal to as many classes as the student missed during his or her absence. Missed assignments due to unexcused absence will be treated according to the late work policy.

*Note: The content of this syllabus is subject to change in accordance with the needs of the class and/or instructor.*