English 8: Course Outline

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VISION & CURRICULUM – *errr,* *What’s this all about?*

Over the course of this year, students in my English 8 class will be given the opportunities to explore English Language Arts through six strands: Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening, Viewing and Representing. In order to facilitate these opportunities, I use a wide variety of media that includes stories & storytelling, books (both fiction & non), movies, drama, music and web resources.

In doing so, our activities and selections will allow us to explore the “3 Core Competencies” identified in the new curriculum (Communication, Thinking and Personal & Social Development), as well as the big ideas and curricular competencies specific to the English 8 curriculum. More information on the curriculum can be found by visiting [www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca](http://www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca/).

The aim of English Language Arts is to enable each student to understand and appreciate language, and to use it confidently and competently in a variety of situations for communication, personal satisfaction and learning. One of the BIG IDEAS specific to the English Language Arts curriculum states that “Language and Text can be a source of creativity and joy.” As a teacher with a passion for English, I truly enjoy the endless possibilities provided to me by the 6 strands of communication, and I hope that by the end of the year, my students will recognize and share in that joy that Language and Text can provide.

ASSESSMENT *errr, What did I get on this?*

Process and skill development will be emphasized in this class, and many activities will see students being given oral or written feedback rather than concrete numerical grades. Furthermore, I believe that writing, even a supposed finished draft, is always a work in progress, and students will be given time to edit and revise at all stages of the writing process.

When formal cumulative marks are given on an assignment, I will be using a 4 point scale to reflect my students’ progress towards meeting assignment-specific curricular outcomes. Typical language used on a rubric would be: 4 (Exceeding Expectations/ Excellent), 3 (Meeting Expectations/Proficient), 2 (Moderately – Minimally Meeting Expectations/Satisfactory), 1 (Not Yet Meeting Expectations/In Progress)

COMMUNICATION *errr, You’re gonna talk to my parents?*

Yes. Yes I am, relatively frequently too. Attached you’ll find a request for your email address. Email is the most time efficient way for me to communicate with parents/guardians, and I REALLY believe in the value of parent-teacher partnerships to support our students.

CLASSROOM RULES, POLICIES, EXPECTATIONS *errr, Why can’t I...?*

This is the cliff notes version. Students in my classes will copy and sign a comprehensive “Charter of Rights and Responsibilities” which can also be found on my webpage.

**Privileges** such as Mobile Devices, Food, Drink and leaving the classroom are just that. I believe that Grade 8 students should be given some responsibility and privilege; however, if students are using technology inappropriately or at inappropriate times, or demonstrating an inability to take responsibility during my class, privileges will be removed.

**Expectations** in my classroom include arriving to class prepared, (with binder, personal reading material and pen/pencil), on time and ready to work. Students who are consistently late or unprepared will be met with consequences which may include loss of privileges, detention or office referral.

**Most Importantly**, I expect my classroom to be a safe and caring environment, where all students can share opinions constructively, speak appropriately and be accepting of others. Disregard for the rights of others within the classroom will result in consequences under the Brock Discipline Policy.

[WWW.MARRIOTTSMARTBOARD.WEEBLY.COM](http://WWW.MARRIOTTSMARTBOARD.WEEBLY.COM/) *errr, What are we doing?*

Marriottsmartboard is my classroom webpage, and will be updated frequently with information relevant to my English 8 classes. As much as possible, I will upload links to things we are doing in class, so students and parents will be able to check in and access documents at home. Combined with our use of Google drive at school “I forgot it at home” or “I forgot it at school” should not be very common excuses.