

Advanced Language Arts 8

Ms. Jordan Hubbard – Room 124 – jhubbard@rochester.k12.mi.us

Description of Course

This course includes the in-depth study of a wide variety of language skills including speaking, thinking, writing and literature at an advanced level. Based on the same CCSS that are addressed in Language Arts 8, the Advanced Language Arts 8 course is designed for students who are proficient writers and readers. Students read and analyze literature in depth and write essays based on their analyses. There is a summer reading requirement for this course.

Texts Used in Class

Identified below are the literature selections that may be used during this course. In addition to providing you with the title and author of each selection, a brief description of the book is provided. If you have any questions about these literature selections, please contact me so that we can discuss them. I'd be happy to talk with students and/or parents who would like the opportunity to make an alternate selection, and I will provide alternative titles for consideration.

- *The House of the Scorpion* – Nancy Farmer
- *The Book Thief* - Markus Zusak
- *Ender's Game* – Orson Scott Card
- *The Outsiders* – S.E. Hinton
- *Pashmina* – Nidhi Chanani
- *Monster (Graphic Novel)* – Walter Dean Myers
- *American Born Chinese* – Gene Luen Yang
- *The Breadwinner: A Graphic Novel* – Deborah Ellis
- Authors in April – selection/author TBD

Films Shown in Class

The film version of several texts may be used throughout the year, including the following films: *The Outsiders*, *Ender's Game*, *The Book Thief*, and supplementary material that is available via the online text or other resources available to instructors.

Reading at Home

Students will be asked to read novels outside of the classroom and create a presentation to exhibit their knowledge and interpretation of various genres. Additional information will be sent home with your student as these assignments are given.

Supplies for ALA 8

Rochester Community Schools provides all necessary materials and supplies for curricular classes. Parents who wish to supplement these materials and supplies for their student in this class may consider purchasing the following:

- Pencils
- Colored pens for revising work
- Blue/black pens
- Erasers
- 3 ring binder or folder
- Highlighters (three different colors)
- Composition or spiral notebook
- Colored pencils or markers

Scholastic Book Orders

Scholastic book orders will be passed out for those students/parents interested at the start of each month. The orders will be due by the third week to provide enough time to collect and submit orders. More information about our classroom code as well as how to order online or via the book order form can be found on my Weebly page: mshubbard124.weebly.com, which is linked on my classroom webpage on the district website.

Remind Alerts

I will be sending out nightly reminders for parents and students who wish to sign up. These reminders will include information about homework, reminders about projects, etc. To sign up for Remind, please follow the prompts below to receive texts and/or download the app.

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/alahubbard

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.

B If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @alahubbard to the number 81010.

If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @alahubbard to (248) 841-4852.

Grading Policies

- Point values will be given to daily assignments, tests, and projects based on the focus, difficulty of assignment, and accuracy.
- Percentages will be averaged and grades given according to the RCS grading system.
- Grades will not be posted in the classroom. Parents and students may monitor their grades via Synergy.

Late and Missing Work

Late and missing work will be accepted for full credit until the end of each quarter. It is the student's responsibility to check with the absent folders by the door to collect any work he/she missed. Please note that I will be working with those who have a pattern of late work. My goal is that students leave my classroom with better time management and a greater love of reading, writing, and learning. Final deadlines must be met, but due dates are flexible.

Technology Usage

Throughout the course of the school year we will be working on using various technologies that will assist and enhance assignments and course work. Our district provides Google accounts for all students. In order to promote online learning as well as understanding appropriate use of available technologies, students will need to utilize their school provided Google accounts as well as the apps associated with Google, such as Google Docs and Google Classroom. The options available from Google will contribute to the overall success of students as they will be able to share documents with other students as well as the teacher, collaborate on group projects and presentations, and learn how to navigate learning online.

Classroom Expectations

- Be prepared – have all necessary materials for the day (pencil, reading book, notebook, etc.).

- Listen and contribute – ask questions when necessary.
- Respect yourself, your classmates, the classroom, Reuther Middle School, and your teachers.
- When entering class, be prepared for learning (completed homework, supplies in hand).
- Follow all school rules. This includes our school policy on the acceptable technology usage agreement.

Our school operates in the reminder system. One verbal reminder will be given per student per class. The second reminder results in a Reminder 2 written form. If the student misbehaves again, a Reminder 3 will be issued, resulting in a visit to the office.

Academic Honesty

Reuther expects academic honesty in all class work. Cheating will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to: Talking at any time during a test or quiz, copying another student's work, having notes or books open during a test or quiz when not authorized, looking at another student's work during a test or quiz, or presenting another person's work as your own (plagiarism). Any form of cheating will result in a consequence of loss of credit at the teacher's discretion.