

 8th Grade English Language Arts

Mrs. Graham

2014-2015

Welcome to 8th Grade ELA! We have a lot of great books, great stories, and great poems to read, along with preparing you not only for the ELA test in the Spring, but also for your move to the high school! This is going to be a fun year that will offer you a lot of challenges along with a lot of wonderful rewards!

**This year we will discuss:**

-Summer reading

-Several short stories and poems in the textbook

-The drama *The Diary of Anne Frank (*in the textbook)

-Several novels including:

*The Giver*

*Nothing but the Truth*

 *The Pearl*

-Selection of Nonfiction Novels

In addition to preparing for the 8th Grade ELA test, we will also be working on vocabulary and writing exercises.

**Students are expected to:**

Be in the room completing the daily routine BEFORE the bell rings:

If you are not in your *seat* ***and*** *completing the daily routine* when the bell rings you are tardy.

Be prepared:

You must have pens, pencils, and binders daily. Not having these items will result in a low participation grade.

Appropriate language will be used at all times, and students will demonstrate respect for others:

As young adults you are expected to use your words and communicate properly. This

means you will demonstrate respect to your classmates and teacher at ALL times.

**Daily Routine**: Each day you will complete the following upon entering the classroom.

**Take care of any personal needs.** You are expected to take care of any personal needs **before** class begins. This means you are to go to the bathroom, stop at your locker, or get a drink before the bell rings. If it is cutting it close please check in with me first.

**Hand in any homework** in the appropriate tray, which is located in the back of the classroom. Each tray is organized by color (green hand in-bin, blue pick-up bin) Homework that is late should be labeled as such, failure to do so will result in zero or half credit for the completed assignment.

**Check the front board**. The front board will display the daily agenda, including a “Bell Ringer”. Once observing the agenda and writing down any assignments/due dates please start on the Bell Ringer.

**Assignments and Grading:**

It is your job to be responsible and keep track of your assignments. Students will receive a monthly calendar which should be used to keep track of all upcoming assignments. Plus, assignments and due dates will be updated daily on the classroom website. Late assignments are unacceptable. However, in the event of an extenuating circumstance, late work will be accepted for a reduced grade. After three late assignments, NO late work will be accepted.

No name papers. If you hand in an assignment without a name on it, it will be placed in the outgoing bin along with other assignments that were graded but not picked up. This paper will stay in the bin until it is claimed by a student, or the unit is complete. Once a student has claimed a no name assignment, the assignment will be considered late (which means points will be deducted).

Grades vary based on the particular assignment. For example:

Homework can range from 5-25 points

Quizzes can range from 10-70 points

Tests can range from 100-200 points

Major assignments and projects can range from 100-300 points

All grading is done on a total points system. While Netclassroom will show grades broken down by category that is done simply for your convenience to see how assessment is identified. In order to figure out your average, take the total number of points you earned and divide it by the total number of points available for the marking period. If you notice on Netclassroom that your quiz average is low but your test average is high, that is an indicator you should study harder for quizzes but it does not mean you will necessarily do poorly for the marking period. It’s all about the points.

**Absenteeism:**

Students who are absent are given two days to make up work. If students are out for a longer period of time, the time allotted is set upon speaking with the teacher. Please notify the teacher if you know ahead of time that you are going to be absent. Also, remember that my website is available to help keep track of the daily agenda and assignments.

Absent the day of a test, quiz, exam, or presentation: You must be prepared to complete the task you have missed the day you return. It is up to you to make the plans to complete the missing task before you leave school that day. Failure to comply to the date agreed upon may result in a 0 for that assignment.

Receiving work that was missed: If you miss a day of school, and do not request the homework to be sent home, you can find the missed handouts in the labeled folders at the front of the room. For further instruction on what was missed please see me at the end of class, ask another student, or check the classroom web page (mrsgraham2.weebly.com).

**Cheating and plagiarism:**

Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero without question! Cheating and plagiarizing are absolutely unacceptable and will not be tolerated. CBA rules on repeat offenders as outlined in the student handbook will apply. Please refer to the CBA handbook and handout for guidelines and expectations regarding academic integrity and honesty.

**Candy, food, drinks, and gum:**

Candy, food, drinks, and gum are strictly forbidden in the academic wing. They are unacceptable in the classroom. Consequences will vary based on the frequency on the violation.

**Contact information:**

Email is the easiest and preferred means of communication. I can be reached by email at dgraham@cbasyracuse.org, or you can call the school at 446-5960 extension 1535.

**Planning for 9th grade:**

8th grade is an exciting year because it is your gateway to the high school which is when you become eligible for the Honors program for English. What factors are used in considering placement in Honors?

\*Average of 93 or higher for marking periods and exams

\* Work Ethic \*Personal Responsibility

\*Class participation \*Positive attitude in class

\* ELA test score

Students are evaluated after midterms when initial placements are made. Students are then reevaluated at the end of the year for final placement. Final placements rest with the Academy. Do not let yourself be placed inappropriately because you did not work hard enough all year. You will not be given a spot in Honors based on your ABILITY – you will be given a spot in Honors based on PERFORMANCE! Space in honors classes is very limited!

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

In keeping with our Mission Statement, Christian Brothers Academy challenges students to achieve excellence in all aspects of their lives by encouraging them to live as moral, responsible, contributing, and successful members of society. Building character and academic integrity, as well as academic success, is a priority at Christian Brothers Academy. Therefore, all forms of cheating, plagiarizing, and lying are unacceptable behaviors for a person of character, and they are not tolerated at CBA.

VIOLATIONS OF OUR ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

1. Using the work, ideas, and information of others, knowingly or unknowingly, as your own. Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to:
	1. Sharing and/or copying homework, lab reports, projects, and all other assignments.
	2. Sharing and/or copying test/quiz answers.
	3. Using a friend’s or sibling’s paper or work from previous years.
	4. Obtaining material for a quiz or test without the instructor’s knowledge.
	5. Bringing and/or using unauthorized information during class, including information stored in any electronic device.
	6. Discussing information about a quiz or test with other students who have not completed the assessment.
	7. Any other action of an inappropriate nature as defined by the teacher.
2. The MLA Style Manual states:

“Forms of plagiarism include the failure to give appropriate acknowledgement when repeating another’s argument, and presenting another’s line of thinking. You may certainly use another person’s works and thoughts, but the borrowed material must not appear to be your creation. In your writing, then, you must document everything you borrow; not only direct quotations and paraphrases but also information and ideas.”

 - Joseph Gibaldi, *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*, New York: *The Modern Language Association of America*, 1998)

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

1. Copying the work of another person.
2. Submitting images and/or documents in whole or in part from the Internet without citation of the source.
3. Using someone’s ideas or writing without acknowledgement and proper citations.
4. Using graphs, charts, illustrations, and/or diagrams without citations.
5. Having a parent or another person write an essay or do a project which is submitted as your own work.
6. Any other action of an inappropriate nature as defined by the teacher.

A student caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a grade of zero for the assignment/assessment. Repeated violations and/or the severity of a violation could result in expulsion from CBA. Appropriate consequences and sanctions will be imposed and a cumulative record of reported violations will be maintained by the Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs.

***If I have lost confidence in myself, I have the universe***

 ***against me.***

**-Ralph Waldo Emerson**

The year ahead is filled with many different challenges. When faced with a challenge remember that “in the middle of difficulty lies opportunity” (Albert Einstein). If you are not met with success during the first attempt try again, for failure breeds success.

Good luck to you in all of your classes!

~Ms. Graham

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss any concerns you may have throughout the school year.

E-mail: dgraham@cbasyracuse.org

**Please hand in this portion of the syllabus:**

In signing the bottom portion of this syllabus, both student and parent certify that they have read and understand the material and policies provided.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Print

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Print

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature Date