



8th Grade Communication Arts Expectations



Our Goal

1. Improve reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills to become effective 21st century learners.
2. Exceed each student's individual target growth goals in reading and language usage.
3. Build the foundation of skills necessary for students to have success at the high school level and beyond.

Expectations

In order to make the most of our time together, students are expected to:

- ❖ Be on time
- ❖ Be prepared
- ❖ Be respectful

Reading

Students will be reading and analyzing a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts this year. We will be working together through a multitude of published writings including short stories and poetry. We will also be exploring, in depth, the following titles: *The Outsiders*, by S. E. Hinton; *Of Mice and Men*, by John Steinbeck; and *Hamlet*, by William Shakespeare.

Additionally, students will be expected to do a quarterly book report. While we will work together to find books that interest students and are at an appropriate reading level, most reading for this project will take place outside of school.

Writing

Students will create expository, narrative, persuasive, and informative pieces of writing. We focus on the following writing process: pre-write, draft, revise, edit, publish. We also put a significant emphasis on teaching students strategies for revising and editing their own writing. Students will write longer pieces in 8th grade which will require more time for revising and editing. Please do not edit/revise your student's writing. The best way for students to improve is to be evaluated authentically.

Tardiness

If students are tardy, they are expected to spend a minute of their time with me after class. Students have five minutes in between classes, so this should not be a problem.

Absences

If a student misses any work in class, he/she should come in to school early the day he/she returns by 8 am. I also prefer that the student emails me to find out what work has been missed. Additionally, parents/guardians can request that homework be gathered and placed on the table right outside of the office. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to pick up any missed assignments and to discuss any questions with the teacher. This is an extremely important step for students to take personal responsibility for obtaining missed work.

Assignments

Organization is the key to student success. All students are expected to use their assignment notebook. Homework assignments, as well as long term due dates, will be posted on the white board and discussed each day.

Assignments will also be posted on our team's homework page link of the Waunakee Community Middle School web page. This posting is a reminder for students and is not to be a replacement for the assignment notebook. Due to teacher absences and/or technical problems, there may be days when the work is not posted promptly.

Grades

Grades are determined by the amount of total points earned per quarter.

Communication

I am available before and after school, as well as during homeroom. I am more than willing to meet with students who would like extra help or support. In the same way, I am more than willing to meet with any of the families of my students as well. If you ever have a question or concern, my school number is 608.849.2060, my home phone number is 608.712.8570, and my email address is leahhundert@waunakee.k12.wi.us. Please don't hesitate to contact me.