

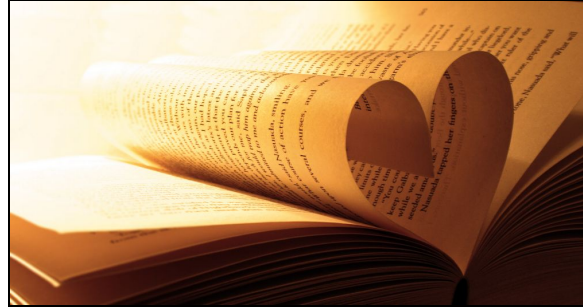
Danville 8th Grade English

Ms. Jessica Settles

Room 508

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“In a gentle way, you can shake the world,”

~Mahatma Gandhi

Course Mission

My mission as your English teacher is to not only help you improve your reading, writing, presentation, and discussion skills but also to expose you to a wide variety of literary works as well as the world around you. Our work in class will be centered on the Common Core State Standards and the Danville Proficiencies for Graduation. In this course, students will delve into theme-based units with reading, writing, discussion, and project based learning experiences. There will also be various opportunities for student choice and flexible learning. In class, we will use technology frequently but we will also use the old school paper and pencil method. I strive to create an open and positive classroom environment customized to accommodate all types of learners. I am thrilled to have you all for 8th grade English.

Requirements

- ★ Come to class with a positive attitude and be ready to learn!
- ★ Read the boards for all directions and information in class!
- ★ Come to class prepared with pen/pencil, binder/folder, and books.
- ★ Be ready to be an active participant in this classroom.
- ★ You will be given a journal for class, We write in our journals daily, keep it clean and neat.
- ★ You must have a planner to write down assignments and reminders.
- ★ You will have an in class hanging folder for handed back work but you must also have a folder or binder for your English papers and documents. I have some to provide if you do not have one.
- ★ Bring Chromebook to class every day with charger, charged and ready to use.
- ★ Ability to use Class Site, Student Portfolios, & other apps and sites.
- ★ Ability to use Google Drive/Docs on a daily basis for writing and editing purposes.
- ★ You must be an avid emailer in my class, I send lots of reminders and assignments via email.
- ★ Be prepared to read complex texts, write frequently for different purposes, and participate in various discussion formats.

Daily Class Agenda

Class will be run using particular routines throughout the year. There are roughly 45 minutes for each class period and each class will be split up in this way:

- ★ Do Now: Journal, Grammar, Vocabulary, Game, Other Activity
- ★ Planners/Reminders/HW (Student reads planners/reminders/hw and write in planners)
- ★ Learning Goal/Standards (Student reads learning goals and class discusses)
- ★ Expectations (Student reads expectations and class discusses)
- ★ Mini-Lessons/Small Tasks
- ★ Activities: Reading, Writing, Discussions, Project Work, Movement Tasks, etc.
- ★ Exit Ticket: Check for understanding/exit task before leaving.

Important Technology and Websites

- **DanvilleMSEnglishSocialStudies.Weebly.com** This website will be used for parent information, unit documents/assignments for both English and Social Studies classes.
- **Google Drive and GoogleDocs:** Students will create documents in GoogleDocs, maintain a GoogleDrive and share documents with peers and teachers through email.
- **Student Portfolios:** Each student will have their own portfolio to display finished work products.

Grade Distribution (Subject to Change)

★ Reading Literature/Informational Text (Reading assignments, strategies, etc.)	20%
★ Writing (Prompts, Essays, Formal Writing Pieces, etc.)	20%
★ Speaking and Listening (Discussions, Being an Audience Member, etc.)	20%
★ Language (Vocabulary, Grammar, Handwriting, Typing, Cursive, etc.)	20%
★ Habits of Work (Participation, Employability, Checks, etc.)	20%

Notes on Grades

- Employability/Participation/Habits— Students will assess themselves on employability and participation throughout the school year. Students will conference with Ms. Settles to determine their quarterly grades for Employment, Participation, and Habits.
- Checks: Portfolio Checks- Each quarter, there will be a check for student's continual updating of portfolio. This grade will go in the Habits of Work category. Students are expected to maintain their portfolio, make it their own and update it often with final products. We will review the portfolio during our first unit, Bootcamp. Planner Checks- I will also check planners and give a small grade to encourage executive function growth.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious offense and will be dealt with according to the student handbook. I urge you all to turn in original work and engage in honest academic practices as this is the standard in college.

Specific Behavior Expectations

- Raising your hand to ask questions.
- Use appropriate language in class.
- Seats will be assigned in pairs, groups and individual seats.
- Exhibit respectful body language and keep hands to yourselves.
- Be open minded to other viewpoints and opinions and do not put people down/bully.
- Food and beverages are allowed but should not be distracting. No soda or energy drinks. Drinks must be in a sealed/closable container. Food should be dry snacks, nothing messy.
- Please do not throw anything in my class.
- No cell phones in my class please. If cell phones are seen, you will receive 1 warning and then the phone will go in the box for the rest of the period. If it becomes a further issue, it will be given to the front office and students may get their phones back at the end of the day.
- Headphones and music are not allowed in the middle school.
- If I let you sit at my desk, it is a privilege. Please don't mess with my stuff.
- Please respect the classroom. Please do not vandalize or harm the classroom in any way. Keep the classroom looking nice for all students.
- Please do not pack up early before the class period is over.
- Laptops and devices should be used responsibly. You will need to use paper and pencil if it becomes an issue.
- I keep in touch with parents and guardians surrounding behavior and academic issues as well as

giving positive feedback about students.

- For behavior issues, you will receive one verbal warning, I will talk to you in the hallway and then if behaviors persist you will be asked to leave the classroom and sent to the student support room or Vice Principal.

Late Work

Late work turned in the following day will impact the Habits of Work grade. Lateness will not impact the actual assignment grade. Students are expected to complete all work to the best of their ability.

Student Accommodations

I will be aware of any accommodations before the class begins. I will also be available for any additional concerns from students. I would like you all to know I will always respect your privacy in these matters.

Emergency Procedures/Drills

Danville School uses three different announcements for emergencies:

- **“Lockdown” or Secure the Building- (Code Red)** - Students get into a designated corner of the room, sit down, and be silent. Teachers will clear the halls, close shades, lock doors and windows. The class will remain in the spot until the administrator announces it is time to end the lockdown.
- **“Clear the Halls”** - All students come into the classroom from the hallway.
- **Fire** - Go out the designated exit, middle school lines up in the upper parking lot, stay with your class.
- **Evacuation** - all students and staff evacuate to predetermined locations off school grounds.

Mandated Reporter

Please note that I am a mandated reporter. Anything you write about or discuss in class that could cause you or others danger will be reported. This includes discussions about drugs and alcohol as well as any other risky behavior.

Curriculum

Unit #	Unit Name	Texts & Topics
1	Bootcamp	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Icebreakers★ Routines & Expectations★ Classroom Setup★ Proficiency/Standards Review★ Technology Tutorial★ Skills & Strategies Introduction: Reading, Writing, Speaking/Listening, Language
2	Poetics & Power of Storytelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Crossover by Kwame Alexander★ Various Short Stories, Poems, etc.★ Reading Group Books
3	Effects of War & Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque
4	Human Relationships & Love	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ A Midsummer Night’s Dream by William Shakespeare
5	Teens as Agents of Change & Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice by Phillip Hoose

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Please take home and review with your parent or guardian. Have your parent or guardian sign below and return for your first official grade. If your parent would like to be on my email list for constant updates please have them fill out the email portion below.

Signature: _____

Email: _____

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me:

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