

Wallenpaupack Area School District

Wallenpaupack Area Middle School

Course Title: English Language Arts 8

Length of Course: Year-long

District Policies:

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is essential to the success of an educational community. Students are responsible for learning and upholding professional standards of research, writing, assessment, and ethics in their areas of study. Written or other work which students submit must be the product of their own efforts and must be consistent with appropriate standards of professional ethics. Academic dishonesty, which includes cheating, plagiarism, multiple submissions and other forms of dishonest or unethical behavior, is prohibited.

Assessment:

The goal of grading is to report student progress and achievement to the parents to strengthen the home-school connection. The grade should accurately reflect the student's performance in mastering the PA Standards and the WASD curriculum.

Attendance:

Regular school attendance is vitally important to academic success. Not only does attendance reinforce and enrich the learning process; it also establishes patterns and attitudes that will carry forward into adult work habits. Regular, consistent attendance is a prerequisite to successful school life. Children should be absent only in cases of illness or emergency.

Special Education:

Our commitment to each student is to ensure a free appropriate public education which begins with the general education setting, with the use of Supplementary Aids and Services. Inclusive education describes the successful education of all students with the appropriate supports and services to participate in and benefit from the general classroom settings and other educational environments.

Course Description & Objectives: The Eighth Grade English composition and literature course focuses on the conventions, practices, and processes of effective writers and readers. Students are expected to closely read a variety of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction in order to gain general knowledge. Students will examine the authors' purposes, audiences, subjects, and contexts, and demonstrate comprehension through a variety of mediums. Students will know the conventions of standard English grammar and usage, applying them whenever speaking or writing. Students will practice strategies needed to solve problems and succeed on standardized tests. Mastery in this course will depend on the students' ability to apply general knowledge and experience to their own evidence-based arguments in carefully constructed written or oral responses.

Pennsylvania State Standards: All WAMS courses are aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards, where applicable.

Student Responsibilities:

Attendance expectations: Attendance is essential to reaching your full potential in understanding ELA concepts.

Homework expectations: Assigned homework is expected to be completed to reinforce skills and concepts taught.

Make-Up work: The allotted time to make-up homework is equal to the number of consecutive days of absence.

Assessment:

Grading Components:

Homework: 20%

Tests: 30%

Quizzes: 25%

Writing Assignments/Projects/Oral Reports: 25%

Final Grading Components:

Q1: 22.25%

Q2: 22.25%

Q3: 22.25%

Q4: 22.25%

Final Exam: 11%

Content Pacing Guide: The following pacing guide is a general guideline and the instructional content/timeframe may vary.

Topic	Major Assignments	Estimated Time
Conventions of Standard English Grammar	Worksheets, quizzes and tests, ongoing writing assignments Study Island	50+ periods
Writing to demonstrate proper use of grammar	Ongoing writing assignments, projects	5+ periods
Paragraph development	Ongoing writing assignments, projects	5+ periods
Essay development	Ongoing writing assignments, projects	5+ periods
Informational Writing	Writing assignments, PSSA workbook, worksheets	5+ periods
Persuasive Writing	Writing assignments, PSSA workbook, worksheets	5+ periods
Descriptive Writing	Writing assignments, PSSA workbook, worksheets	5+ periods
Creative Writing	Writing assignments, worksheets	5+ periods
Read and Analyze Narrative Text	Literature (novels, short stories, plays, poetry), summaries, quizzes, tests, worksheets, projects, Study Island	10+ periods
Read and Analyze Fiction	Literature (novels, short stories, plays, poetry), summaries, quizzes, tests, worksheets, projects, Study Island	10 + periods
Read and Analyze Informational Text	Literature,(novels, short stories, current events), summaries, quizzes, tests, worksheets, projects, Study Island	5+ periods
Read and Analyze Historical Fiction	Literature,(novels, short stories, current events), summaries, quizzes, tests, worksheets, projects, Study Island	5+ periods
Read and Analyze Poetry	Literature, (novels, anthology,) worksheets, PSSA workbook, quizzes, tests, projects, Study Island	5+ periods
Read and Analyze Plays	Literature, (novels, anthology,) worksheets, PSSA workbook, quizzes, tests, projects. Study Island	5+ periods
Read and Analyze Dramatic Readings	Literature, worksheets, PSSA workbook, quizzes, tests, projects, Study Island	5+ periods
Comprehend and Recognize Literary Terms	Communications literary terms packet, worksheets, quizzes, tests Study Island	10+ periods
Writing to demonstrate comprehension of text	Writing assignments, PSSA workbook, worksheets, Study Island	5+ periods
Speaking and Listening	Presentations, collaborative discussions, and integration of multi-media/visual displays	10+ periods