

BLUE HERON SCHOOL

3939 San Juan Avenue
Port Townsend, WA 98368
Phone: (360) 379-4540
www.ptschools.org/blueheron
Fax: (360) 379-4548



Victoria Kalscheuer, Principal
Grades 6 - 8

Language Arts: 8th Grade Course Syllabus 2022-2023

Melinda Schroeder

Email: mschroeder@ptschools.org

Classroom: Room 604, Phone: 379-4363.

Class website: Google Classroom (Assigned by Class)

Coursework is designed to facilitate mastery of the Common Core State Standards and to help you become a better reader, writer, speaker, and thinker. Along this journey, we will enjoy compelling and rich fiction, non-fiction, with some titles like *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton, *Julius Caesar* by Shakespeare, and *Unbroken* by Lauren Hillenbrand. We will also be working on several cross-curricular activities and place-based learning opportunities this year: WITS, US Coast Guard visit, Kilisut Harbor Restoration and Seining Project, Capitol Tour. We will improve your grammar, advance your vocabulary, increase your confidence, and prepare you for high school.

1. Be here. Be prepared, in your assigned seat, when class starts. You get three tardies/quarter, until you are referred to the office. If you fail to show up for class, you are putting your learning at jeopardy and attendance is imperative to your success. When you are absent, it is your responsibility to check Google Classroom and The Absent Binder for any missing work or handouts.

2. Be Responsible. Most of your supplies can stay in my classroom, but you need to be prepared always, everyday. All assignments are turned into the turn in tray. Have an outside novel to read at all times, as mandatory reading time will be assigned when we finish an assignment/project early. Each week you will be required to write in your planner the weekly homework and assignments, so you can keep track of your work. You can also find this all in Google Classroom on our weekly agendas. It is expected that all assignments will be turned in on time and promptly. All work given is valuable and offers insight to me on the growth and understanding of the student, based on their ability to reach state benchmarks and standards. The 8th grade team will accept late work **two weeks** after the assigned due date. Once the late work deadline has passed, no late work will be accepted. Assignments turned in after an absence will not be counted as late, but must be turned in timely upon return of an absence. If it exceeds the due date after an absence, (for example, if a student is absent 4 school days, they will get 4 school days to make up the work and not be counted late), then that assignment will be deemed late and receive the same penalty for late work. It is imperative that students not procrastinate and keep track of their assignments, being timely and prompt, turning everything in on time.

Be Respectful. You are expected to be courteous and respectful to all teachers, students, and guests. There will not be any swearing, name calling, or snide comments. Your cell phone must

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be turned off and stowed in your bag, unless we are using it for class or you're given special permission to use it. Otherwise, it will be sent to the office if misuse occurs. Respecting the learning space, includes Chromebook, classroom, materials provided to you, books checked out to you, etc.

Be Awesome. Simply put, if you respect others, they will respect you. Be willing to be goofy, laugh, but also hard working and someone everyone enjoys being around everyday. Being a hard worker, a critical thinker, and willing to take risks makes my heart happy. If you do all of these things, you will love ELA.

Supplies

In order to ensure student success, your child should bring the following to class **EVERY DAY**:

- 1 Spiral Notebook-This will be left in the classroom for journaling purposes.
- Notebook paper
- Several pencils + erasers
- 1 folder for any materials distributed during class-This can be left in class.
- A book to read at all times (**ALWAYS.**)

Grades

Grades will be available on Skyward, updated at least **every two weeks**. Please contact the office, if you need a reminder about your username and password.

The following standard grading is used for this class:

A	93- 100%	B	83 – 86.9%	C	73 – 76.9%	F	59.9% & Below
A-	90 – 92.9%	B-	80 – 82.9%	C-	70 – 72.9%		
B+	87 – 89.9%	C+	77 – 79.9%	D	69 - 60 %		

Categories in Skyward

Writing (this could include but is not limited to planning, drafts, peer reviews, final drafts, journals, etc.) 50%

Classwork/Homework (Anything that is not completed in class) 30%

Discussion (This aligns specifically to Speaking and Listening Common Core State Standards)10%

Quiz/Tests 5%

Participation (engaged in class activities, formative assessment checks, personal responsibility, utilizing class time effectively, etc.) 5%

Common Cores Standards and Benchmarks

Writing Standards	Reading Standards	Speaking and Listening Standards
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<p>W1. Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.</p> <p>W2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.</p> <p>W3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.</p> <p>W4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)</p> <p>W10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two).</p>	<p>RL/I 1. Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.</p> <p>RL/I.2. Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.</p> <p>RL/I 10. By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, at the high end of grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.</p> <p>RI 8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced.</p> <p>RI 9. Analyze a case in which two or more texts provide conflicting information on the same topic and identify where the texts disagree on matters of fact or interpretation.</p>	<p>SL1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.</p>
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Academic Integrity:

The student's individually-assigned work must be their own. If a student cheats or copies work and claims it as their own work, the student will receive zero credit on the assignment/test. The student may or may not (teacher discretion) have the opportunity to make up the grade. A parent/guardian will be notified with concerns about questionable academic integrity.

Need to Reach Me?

I am here to assist your student with their learning and hope that you will help make this a positive collaboration for your student to be successful. As mentioned before, this is the year

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students are given much more responsibility and need support and guidance to handle their school work independently. Working as a team is essential in order for your child to be successful. However, it is your student's responsibility to communicate with their teacher's about missing assignments, making up work, and what they can do to improve their grades.

I am available **by appointment only (unless otherwise notified)**. Students are held accountable for their class work and behavior in class, and I hold them to this standard on a daily basis. If they need extra help, I am available first thing in the AM, lunch, and on an appointment basis for after school. You can always reach me by emailing me, as this is the quickest way to reach me.

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Detach and return to Mrs. Schroeder **by September 9.**

I have read and understood the course syllabus and outline for Ms. Schroeder's 8TH ELA.

Student's name (Printed)

Student's Signature

Parent/GUardian Signature

Please make sure ALL SKYWARD INFORMATION IS UP TO DATE, as I use Skyward Message for quarterly/unit based updates!

_____ Yes my Skyward information (email and phone number) is up to date!

_____ No, my Skyward information is inaccurate please use the following:

Phone number:

Email: