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Canvas Page - <https://mlbgdsd.instructure.com/>

What to Expect...

ELA is a combination of reading and writing. During this course, we will read and analyze various literary genres (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, drama, etc.). In addition, we will complete lessons in grammar, usage, and vocabulary. These readings and lessons will be utilized and applied to various writing assignments that focus on different styles of writing.

The PSSA text-dependent analysis rubric will be used for grading in an effort to prepare for the PSSA ELA testing in

the spring.

Many class assignments will be introduced and collected using Canvas and Google Classroom. Some assignments will require you to work individually while others will require group collaboration. If an assignment needs to be completed outside of class and internet access is not available, it is your responsibility to see me for alternate instructions. In most situations, ample class

time is provided to complete assignments if it is used responsibly.

Greek and Latin roots will be the basis of a large selection of your spelling and vocabulary words. There will be an emphasis on understanding roots, prefixes, and suffixes to help you become a better reader and writer.

Additional vocabulary will be pulled from the novel studies.

Book Reports

You will also complete book reports this year. When they are assigned, an updated rubric will be available on the book report module on Canvas. You may choose the book that you read as long as it meets the following requirements:

- The book must have a minimum of 110 pages of reading.
- The book must be an appropriate reading level.
- The book may not be one read in a previous class.
- You may not use books that are collections of stories or statistics.
- Books must be appropriate and acceptable reading material.

You may earn five extra credit points for completing additional book presentations (maximum 3 a marking period) throughout the year. Extra credit reports must include the title, author, a brief summary, one thing you liked about the story, and one thing you didn't like about the story.

8th Grade ELA

Posting of grades and icon meanings:

Since ELA is a combination of Language Arts and Reading, it is now graded as one subject instead of two separate classes. However, both subjects are still listed on Power School and will appear on report cards. I will only be posting grades in the first of the two classes listed on Power School which is Language Arts. If a grade is showing the “collected” icon, the assignment was turned in on time and grades will be posted when the assignment grading is completed. If there is a “missing” icon, students can complete/submit the assignment for full credit. A combination of the “missing” icon and the “late” icon indicates that the assignment can be submitted for partial credit. A grade of zero with a “late” icon indicates credit for the assignment will no longer be given.

“If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot.”
— [Stephen King](#)

Grades are based on...

- Writing assignments
- Book report presentations
- Class Projects
- Tests and Quizzes
- Oral Reports
- Homework
- Class Participation

Novel Studies:

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Holocaust Study:

Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Violation Education

PA Act 70 - Passed in 2014 declared that students must be taught an understanding of the importance of the protection of human rights.

Various works of fiction, nonfiction, poetry

The Diary of Anne Frank—drama