

# Mrs. O'Reilly ✨ Grade 8 English - Room 322



Welcome to 8th grade English Language Arts at Memorial Middle School! My name is Melinda O'Reilly, and I am so excited to have you in my class this year. I hope it will be a fulfilling and fun year for all of us!

## Course Description

Working with appropriately complex texts, we will think, read, talk and write on a daily basis in ELA. We will explore a range of texts, including novels, drama, poems, and nonfiction. We will conduct research with the purpose of analyzing and reflecting on new discoveries and ideas. We will interact frequently through discussions, presentations, and collaboration. You will write arguments, explanations, and narratives that use clear and precise language with styles appropriate to audience and purpose.

## Course Texts

- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- *The Diary of Anne Frank* by Anne Frank
- Selected short stories & poetry
- *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers

## Class Expectations

- ❖ Come to class on time and prepared with your required materials
- ❖ Access Google Classroom for materials, links, and assignments
- ❖ Ask questions when you don't understand something
- ❖ Respect yourself, your classmates, and your environment
  - Take care of each other; everyone's voice matters
- ❖ Stay focused!
  - **ONLY ELA apps/tabs should be used during class**
  - **No cell phones are allowed**
    - Inappropriate use of technology results in confiscation and further consequences
- ❖ Be an active learner; participate in your education!
- ❖ Plagiarism and cheating are not permitted and will result in serious consequences

## Grades

### Assignments are weighted as follows:

Tests, Projects, & Writing Assignments: 40%  
Quizzes: 30%  
Classwork & Participation: 20%  
Homework: 10%

Students and their caretakers should check Aspen x2 **regularly** to monitor grades, upcoming assignments, and current averages. ***Do not wait until midterms!***

## Homework

All students are expected to complete their homework to be considered prepared for daily participation. **Homework is assigned on most weeknights**, and is graded primarily on effort and completion. All assignments are posted to the calendar on Google Classroom and on the Smartboard daily agenda. Assignments are expected to be turned in on time; **late homework assignments will receive half credit**. If you are absent for class(es), you may turn in all work for full credit within one week (5 school days) from the absence. It is the student's responsibility to use Google Classroom and Aspen to access all makeup work. Please communicate with me and I will do my best to help you!

## Required Course Materials

- ★ Chromebook (fully charged, with charger!)
- ★ 1 folder designated for ELA only
- ★ 1" binder designated for ELA only
- ★ 4 Tabs for the binder
- ★ Lined notebook paper
- ★ Pen, pencil, highlighter
- ★ Sticky notes (used for notes & exit tickets!)
- ★ A positive attitude!

## Communication

Communication is important– please feel free to talk with me before or after class. Send me an email if you have a question, need help, or something is bothering you. I'm here to help you have a successful 8th grade year.

**Email:** [mgrabowski@town.hull.ma.us](mailto:mgrabowski@town.hull.ma.us)

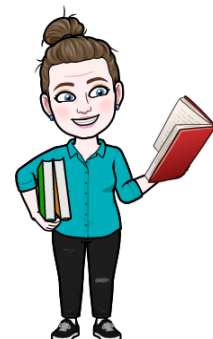
**Phone:** (781) 925 – 2040 (extension #2322)

## Extra Help

If you're in need of additional help, please contact me! You may request to see me during my extra help hours during the Enrichment period, or after school on Thursdays. You must **sign up ahead of time** for both after school and intervention help; I may have other commitments if you arrive without notice.

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*"The [teacher] must genuinely value everyone's presence. There must be an ongoing recognition that everyone influences the classroom dynamic, that everyone contributes. These contributions are resources. Used constructively they enhance the capacity of any class to create an open learning community"*  
– bell hooks, *Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom*



# Binder Requirements

Middle school is an important social and emotional transition to high school; students develop organization and study habits that will follow you throughout your life! A better organized student typically finds more success in school. In ELA this year, we will work on building organization strategies by keeping one binder for all materials related to ELA. **Students will receive a participation grade for following binder organization guidelines each term.** The rubric for this assessment is posted to Google Classroom; I will provide ample notice prior to binder checks.

**Parents and Caretakers:** Encourage your child to follow-through with the positive routine of utilizing a daily agenda and organizational strategies. Help your child use these recommended systems, encourage them to seek extra help, and follow along with important dates for tests, quizzes, and projects. We are a team; their success is our success!

## Please organize your binder with the following sections:

### Section 1: Homework

- ★ Any homework assignments that are paper copies should be stored in this section.

### Section 2: Classwork

- ★ This is where we will keep all worksheets, graphic organizers, and charts made/done in class. This section is helpful for studying for tests or for a quick reference guide while doing homework!

### Section 3: Vocabulary

- ★ We will have vocabulary lists to review and study every week of 8th grade. All of your vocabulary materials should be stored in this section.

### Section 4: Notes

- ★ We take notes in ELA all the time! We mostly take notes using Google Slides (Peardeck), but if we are taking notes on paper, they'll belong in this section! You should keep any loose-leaf paper in this section, too.



★ By signing this document, I agree that I have read the 2022-2023 English Language Arts syllabus for 8th grade. I agree that I will abide by the classroom rules, policies, and expectations.

Student Name:  
(please print!)

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Caretaker Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_