**MRS. COUNTS’**

**8TH GRADE ELA SYLLABUS**

**Course Description**

My class is designed to involve students in applying reading, writing, listening, speaking, and viewing skills independently through meaningful interdisciplinary task(s). This year, students will continue to develop an appreciation for literature through the study of literary elements in classic and contemporary selections. An emphasis is placed on reinforcing literal meaning, but at the same time, developing the abstract in the students’ critical thinking skills and use of language.

**Implementation**

Students will be engaged in the learning process by:

* Individual exploration and research
* Group lectures and discussions
* Small group/team oriented activities
* Hands-on activities such as written (and presentation tools) projects
* Oral presentations
* Written composition

**Course Skill Development**

*(Adapted from Common Core State Standards)*

* Use word recognition and vocabulary skills to communicate.
* Apply strategies and skills to comprehend, respond to, interpret, or evaluate a variety of texts of increasing levels of difficulty.
* Express, communicate, evaluate, or exchange ideas effectively.
* Apply Standard English to communicate

**Course Requirements**

* Attendance is necessary to keep up with the class. If a student misses class time, they are missing the instruction time needed to learn a skill. However, if a student must miss class, they are required to make up missed work in a timely manner *(See Revolution House Policy Guidelines)*.
* Plagiarism and cheating have no place in a community of learners. Each student is required put forth effort in all of their assignments. Everyone has something important and valuable to add to our learning experience. If a student is suspected of plagiarism or cheating, parents, guidance, and administration will be notified and consequences will be determined. *(See Mrs. Counts’ Academic Honesty Guidelines)*.
* Students are required to keep up with their assigned reading and turn in assignments on time. Students will lose valuable learning experiences if they come to class unprepared.

**Major Works and Assignments**

There will be manyexciting andenriching activities to look forward to this year. Some of these will require outside preparation and the aid of a parent and/or groupmates to be successful. Here is a list of required major projects that each student will be responsible for this year:

* Research Papers
* Independent book study and reflection writing *(books must be approved by me)*
* Class Novels:
  + We will read and studyseveral novels as a class**.** Various activities and projects will be tied to the novels. These readings may include, but are not restricted to:
    - *Of Mice and Men*
    - *Nothing But the Truth*
    - *Swallowing Stones*
    - *The Giver*
    - *The Outsiders*

**Grading**

Students will be graded in a variety of ways including formal assessments such as tests; participation grades for daily work; and authentic assessments using rubrics for oral presentations, projects, and written assignments. Students will be encouraged to self-evaluate their work and to evaluate their peers’ work. My grading scale is as follows (per Norwalk Public Schools ELA department)



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| **Reading and Writing** |
| Homework 10%  Quizzes                                                               20%  Test/APT/Projects 30%  Classwork                                                       40% |
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