**English 8 PROCEDURES &**

**REQUIREMENTS**

***Miss D. Arney***



**The following materials MUST be brought to class each day.**

***❑*** 3-ring Binder (class notebook) — this is to be used exclusively for

 English

❑ Blue or Black pen (**not** red, green or purple)

❑ Looseleaf (Not notebook paper)

❈ Required texts **for the day (**refer to Planbook to see class agenda)

❈ Required homework assignment (refer to Planbook)

❈ Suggested: highlighters

 ❈ Suggested: dry erase markers

 ❈ Suggested: 3" post-its



Classroom discussions and instruction are an imperative part of this course. Any absence can potentially hurt a student's academic success.

 Students are expected to be in class on time each day. If a student is late or ill, he is responsible for getting the missing assignments, notes, handouts, etc. If it is necessary to reschedule a makeup exam or quiz, he will need to arrange a suitable time with me. The exam must be made up within **three** days of the child's return; a quiz, in two. In the event of an extensive absence, the student will be given an adequate period of time to make up missing assignments and review class notes before making up the exam or quiz; however, the exam or quiz must be completed within a week of the student's return.

**Do now** assignments, **exit tickets**, and **entry tickets** cannot be made up from an absence.

Attendance is factored into each child’s class participation grade. Any child with a legal absence will not earn any points towards their daily participation grade. Infrequent absences will *not* impact a child’s overall participation grade; excessive absences will, however result in a substantial reduction of this grade.

An illegal absence (a cut or return to class without a legal readmit slip) will result in a 4 point reduction on the student’s daily class participation grade. A late arrival (within the first 10 minutes of class) will result in a 1 point reduction if the child has a pass; an illegal tardy will result in a 2-point reduction from the cumulative number of class participation points.

 ***My website and planbook pages are helpful resources for any child who is absent; it is possible that class notes, handouts, or announcements can be found on either site.***

**CLASS PARTICIPATION**

As class participation is 10% of a student's quarterly grade, it is important that he attends class on a regular basis, is well prepared and that he engages in class discussions and group assignments. Students are rewarded for regular (and timely) attendance, preparedness and active participation. A child’s class participation will be reduced if the child is regularly late or absent, if he or she misses class without a legal excuse, or if the student is off task, disruptive, or unprepared (homework and necessary class supplies).

 The class participation system implemented in class affords each child the opportunity to earn more than 100 class participation points. Any child who exceeds this maximum number of points may “purchase” rewards with their points. This will be discussed later in this introductory packet.



**1) Spelling/ Vocabulary Tests:**

 Weekly spelling/ vocabulary tests will be administered to assess spelling / vocabulary growth. Students will be encouraged to expand their vocabulary by applying new words in their writing and oral expression. With little exception, each unit will be introduced on Monday. Flashcards will be due on Tuesday; an original sentence using each word will be due on Wednesday. Weekly tests will be given on Friday.

 To stress the importance of reviewing all words regularly, vocabulary tests will be cumulative (all words from previous units may be represented in some form). When an "A" is achieved on a test of forty or more words (85% or better without any bonus points), a student may earn an exemption from the following week's exam.

 Study Tip: Study ALL of your words 15 minutes **every night**....not just a day or two before the exam.

**2) Unit Tests**

Unit tests will be announced at least thee days prior to testing date. Makeup tests are available at the teacher's discretion. A student must make up a missed test within 3 days of his/her return to school. There are no makeup exams if someone does poorly; test grades cannot be dropped by participation points.

**3) Quizzes / Surprise Quizzes/ Comprehension Checks/ Notebook Checks.**

 Quizzes will frequently be administered to assess understanding. Not all quizzes will be announced. Surprise quizzes will be administered periodically to assess completion of homework or understanding of lectures and class discussions. A quiz should be expected at the conclusion of any reading assignment to assess basic comprehension (and if a student is aware a quiz is coming after a reading assignment, it won’t be a surprise!). Students may also expect an occasional "notebook check" to make sure they are maintaining organized and thorough notes. Again, students are expected to have a three-ring binder for the class. All students will be given specialized binder dividers created specifically for English 8 to help keep the binders organized.

**4) What happens if I miss a test or quiz?**

 Tests that are missed due to absences must be made up within 3 days of the student's return or a "0" will be computed into the student's average; a quiz must be made up within 2 days. It is the student's responsibility to schedule such a makeup exam. On occasion, quizzes will be returned prior to a student’s return to class or I will determine a quiz cannot be made up for reasons of my own (for instance, a specific skill was being assessed to make certain students were taking notes the day or night before). In these cases, a student may carry a 0 for this quiz, but it can be dropped at the end of the quarter if the student has enough participation points.

**Do now** assignments, **exit tickets**, and **entry tickets** cannot be made up from an absence.

5) Bonus Quizzes

 In each quarter I may offer a bonus quiz. This allows students who were absent for a quiz that could not be made up or for students who have failed previous quizzes to raise their grades. The bonus quiz will be administered after school on one day to be determined near the end of the quarter or on Juno (online program). The quiz will replace one quiz grade from that quarter.

**Students who have earned enough participation points may drop the lowest quiz and/or vocabulary test in the quarter. Test grades cannot be dropped; however, students are encouraged to visit the website each quarter for extra credit opportunities to help boost their grades.**





I have an open-door policy for extra help sessions.

Extra help should be available after school almost every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday afternoon -- you only need to ask. Please check with me prior to that afternoon to ensure that I will be there at the desired time.

General review session will be scheduled before any major test or deadline of an important assignment. These sessions will be announced one week prior to the review during class and will be listed on the Planbook page and website.

Students are encouraged to schedule a conference if they have a question about course material, an assignment, their grades or need to make up an assignment or test. Such sessions may be scheduled before school, during lunch or after school hours.

 I would like to stress, too, that I prefer a question be asked than an assignment not be done. If you encounter any difficulty with an assignment while at home (weekend/ vacation/ evening), you may call me at home for clarification rather than ignore the homework. While I encourage correspondence from my students and their guardians, I do request that my e-mail address not be used for chain mail or spam forwards. Thank you.

Miss Arney : Contact Information

Home #: 845-406-4532 English Office: 620-3841

Voice mailbox: 620-3800 x 4006

Email: missarney1@optonline.net (This is a preferred email as the school email has a very strong spam filter)

or: arneyd@pearlriver.org (again, this address has a strong Spam filter and I may not receive your email).

Webpage: [www.missarney.weebly.com](http://www.missarney.weebly.com)

Class Blog: http://missarney.weebly.com/english-8-class-blog---lets-continue-the-conversation.html

 (available from tab on website)

Planbook Page (for classwork & homework assignments):

http://planbookedu.com/s/7YYI4 (link available on website)

**A Special Request to Parents**:

In compliance with PRSD School Board Policy, I may not respond to your child’s email if you have not signed the waiver for me to do so.

If you have not given teachers permission to respond to your child’s email, I would ask that you please have your child use your email address when he/she sends me a question or assignment that necessitates a response from me. You may then monitor the conversation and relay my information to your child.

When setting up your child’s Jupitergrades account with your child, please input whichever email address I may use to send messages to your child. Please note that most messages sent to the children via Jupitergrades will be sent to you as well.If you prefer your messages from Jupitergrades to be sent in Spanish, you can select that option when you set up your account.



Homework is an important element in a student's success. It is not meant to simply keep a child busy; rather, it serves to reinforce a daily lesson or introduce a new unit. Students are expected to devote time and effort to **any and all** assignments issued in the course.

* Homework is posted on the planbookedu.com site. The link (available on my website) is

 <http://www.planbookedu.com/s/C6E65>

* Homework is expected to be **completed as assigned** and submitted on the day it is due.
* Homework that is incomplete, illegible or substandard will be given an "F" or returned for revision. Any student who turns in assignments that are chronically illegible (3 or more) will be required to TYPE all assignments -- including spelling sentences.
* All students should take great pride in any assignment that is to be submitted. For this reason I would like to emphasize that any assignment turned in on a ripped-out piece of notebook paper will NOT be accepted. Please remember that a 3-ring, looseleaf binder is required for this course.
* **Homework that is turned in late will be penalized as follows:**

 **1 day late: 5 points off grade earned**

 **2 days late: 10 points off grade earned**

 **3 days late: 15 points off grade earned**

 **4+ days late: Homework assignments will not be accepted.**

**Please note that weekends and vacation days DO COUNT when days late are calculated. If an assignment is due on Friday and is submitted on Monday, the maximum grade possible is an 85% (15 points off for 3 days late).**

Beginning in the **4th quarter**, **late homework will NOT** be accepted. A student who does not have his/her homework will be given a 0 unless s/he has a homework pass.

**Major essays & projects will be penalized 10 points for each day they are not submitted. They will not be accepted after 3 days.** Please note that weekends and holidays ARE factored into the penalty (e.g., a homework assignment due on Friday but submitted on Monday will lose 15 points; an essay or project will lose 30). To avoid such hefty penalties, students may email me late assignments.

\*\* Projects & Essays are due on the assigned deadline. If a student is absent on the deadline for a long-term assignment, that assignment **must** be sent in with another student or a parent/ guardian, or by other arrangements to avoid a penalty. In most cases, the assignment may be emailed by CLASS TIME THAT day.\*\*

* **"NO HOMEWORK PASSES"** may be earned as a reward for exceptional academic performance and may be used to be exempt from designated assignments **or** to eliminate a low grade for a previously submitted assignment. "No Homework Passes" may **NOT** be redeemed for essays, papers, tests, reading assignments, quizzes, short writing assignments, journals, or class projects. **No Homework Passes DO NOT** excuse you from a reading assignment. They will not exempt you from a quiz on the previous night’s reading. These also may NOT be used to “buy you a day” on an essay or project.

With some minor exceptions, **homework agendas** will be posted on the planbookedu.com site by Sunday night. The agenda will not only list daily assignments, but will also indicate due dates and progress checks of upcoming tests, projects, or long-term assignments.

A special note regarding **Vocabulary Flashcards**: Students are required to create flashcards on index cards for each vocabulary unit. There is a very strict policy that I have been compelled to enforce: ANY INCOMPLETE SET OF FLASHCARDS (even missing 1 card) WILL RESULT IN A 0 FOR THE ASSIGNMENT. Students must count the cards prior to submitting them…and be certain that a former vocabulary word card has not accidentally been included in lieu of a new word. The missing card(s) will **not** be accepted once I have graded them and determined one or more missing so the (-5) points per day policy does not apply to these.

On occasion, **modifications may be necessary** on the weekly assignment sheets. Any student who is absent is expected to ask about any such changes; all students are encouraged to consult the website & planbook regularly for changes and updates. Usually, if there is a significant change (moving a test day, for example), I will send out an email alert via Jupitergrades.

**Vocabulary sentences** are to be completed and submitted each Wednesday. They will be graded for accuracy (i.e., using the word correctly) and precision. All words in the sentence must be spelled correctly and show understanding of the meaning for credit to be given (For example, a vague sentence such as ***He is brazen*** will not be given credit). If you are in doubt, please use a dictionary. Please also note that these sentences must be original -- **not** copied from the models OR from the Internet.



It is my understanding that all students are well aware of how they are expected to behave in class. Every student enters the classroom with the inherent right to learn; I enter my classroom with the inherent right to teach. Conduct that interferes with any student's right to learn will be dealt with severely. The following guidelines indicate the expected behaviors of my students and the corresponding punishments with any breach of the class rules.

In order for every student to achieve academic excellence, all students are expected to be in their seats with their required materials when the bell rings. Any student who is late is required to have a legal pass (from a teacher or from the main office). Students will be receive a warning for the first late arrival not exceeding 3 minutes; chronic or excessive tardiness (more than once or longer than 3 minutes) will result in disciplinary action and a school-assigned detention will be administered for every 3 tardies.

All students are expected to conduct themselves maturely and appropriately in class. The following rules will be adhered to during class:

1) Students must be in their assigned seats with all appropriate materials when the bell rings and are to remain in their seats until dismissed by the teacher.

2) Disrupting or distracting other students by talking, making silly noises, etc. is not allowed.

3) No inappropriate, profane or obscene language may be used in class. This includes teasing, harassing or insulting another student in the class.

☛ To encourage and foster an environment conducive to cooperation and collaborative learning, students will be absolutely prohibited from using the expression "Shut up" and from referring to another person as "stupid" or any of its synonyms. Use of such language will result in an immediate detention.

 4) Students are to keep hands and objects to themselves (no paper basketball!)

 5) No cheating, copying or plagiarizing will be tolerated (see attached).

 6) Cell phones, MP3 players, iPods, and other electronic devices are strictly prohibited unless I specifically allow them for a particular lesson or activity and will be confiscated. No warnings will be issued.

An infraction of any of these expectations will result in disciplinary action taken in the following steps:

1st infraction: Warning

2nd infraction: After school detention (15 minutes).

3rd infraction: After school or morning detention (40 minutes) with phone call home and possible referral.

Severe Clause: Restricted study hall, teacher detention, phone call home and referral.

If a student misses an assigned detention without a legal excuse (e.g., illness with presentation of doctor's note), that student will be issued a referral **and** another reassigned teacher detention.

Please note that any and all infractions listed here will also result in a penalty to the class participation grade as participation points will be deducted. This includes off-task behavior, failure to have required materials, talking to classmates in a disruptive manner, etc.



***Honor: a keen sense of right and wrong;***

***adherence to action or principles considered right; integrity***

***(Webster’s* New World Dictionary)**

While peer sharing of ideas and questions is both permissible and encouraged, cheating is neither permitted, or tolerated, in this class. It is more responsible to admit to having difficulty with an assignment than to turn in fraudulent work. Any student caught copying an assignment or cheating on a test will be dealt with in the sternest manner possible.

**What do I consider cheating?**

 Any time a student takes ideas or information from another student, the Internet, another book, or a student “help” site like SparkNotes, he is cheating. This includes copying answers into study guides or taking notes from a source that is not the authentic and original text. Please see the information from the PRHS Code of Conduct on the next page.

Students who aspire to the National Honor Society should keep in mind that their ethics are as important as their grades in determining candidacy for that organization. Instances of cheating or plagiarizing will be reported to the NHS when they apply.

 **COPYING HOMEWORK:**

Please note that homework is to be completed by students **individually**. THIS INCLUDES STUDY GUIDES!!!!!!!!! If students have any questions regarding an assignment, they should seek the help of a teacher, not another student. **CREDIT WILL NOT BE GIVEN TO ASSIGNMENTS THAT ARE DONE “TOGETHER”** unless the assignment is specifically geared to be a cooperative or group task. **I will be clear when students may collaborate. If I do not specify that an assignment is collaborative, IT ISN’T. And, to be clear, the student who GIVES the assignment for another/others to copy is equally guilty and will receive the same punishment.**

 **CHEATING ON A TEST; PLAGIARIZING AN ESSAY/WRITING ASSIGNMENT:**

**Using contraband materials on a test or to complete an essay will result in a 0 on the assignment and will be reported to the school principal for further action.**

**A Note About SparkNotes & Other Such “Study-Aid” Sites:**

**DO NOT USE THEM**. If I suspect that the ideas expressed in your writing assignments, quizzes, or other assessments reflect those from any on-line “grade saver” sources, you will be given a 0 that will not be dropped from your score. If this happens more than once, actions will be taken not limited to notification to guidance and administration.

I have access to these sources as well. If I suspect that students are reading SparkNotes instead of the actual texts, I will ensure that students must read the texts by making the quizzes more specific, requiring much more careful attention to the texts.

 **From the PRHS Code of Conduct: Academic Integrity? (page 47)**

 […] the PRHS faculty will have a zero tolerance policy for cheating.

1. Students may not copy from another student’s test, quiz paper, or work, including homework. During a test or quiz, students must avoid even the appearance of cheating by putting away all notes, cell phones and other electronic devices, keeping their eyes on their own papers, working in silence, and refraining from leaving their seats. Discussing homework with other students is encouraged, but copying homework from another student or from your textbook is unacceptable. Homework must be written in the students’ own words.
2. In any course submitting another student’s paper and representing it as your own is forbidden.
3. We encourage students to collaborate and deepen their knowledge of their subjects by fully discussing academic topics. Students may collaborate with others on assignments. If a student is unsure about the appropriateness of collaboration for a specific assignment, he/she should consult with the teacher. When collaboration takes place, the work should clearly bear the names of all the students who participated. However, students need to practice their critical thinking and writing skills by independently structuring their responses to assignments and writing with their own words. By merely copying the form and paraphrasing another’s ideas, students demonstrate an “inability to develop and express their own thoughts” (MLA Handbook 66).
4. Offering or receiving specific or general information about the content or tests or quizzes is not permitted. Knowingly using, buying, selling, transporting, or soliciting the contents of a quiz, test or exam is forbidden.
5. Students may not substitute for another student or permit another student to substitute for you in an examination.
6. Altering a test paper or grade in any manner is forbidden.

**From the PRHS Code of Conduct: What is Plagiarism? (page 48)**

In its brochure “Academic Honesty Misconduct – Stop and Think,” Ohio University defines plagiarism as “the presentation of the ideas of writing of someone else as one’s own work.” It includes the following:

* Reproducing another person’s work, whether published or unpublished, including using materials from companies that sell research papers.
* Submitting as your own any academic exercise prepared totally or in part by another.
* Allowing another person to alter or revise your work substantially and submitting it as your own.
* Using another’s written ideas or words without properly acknowledging the source. If a student uses the words of someone else, he or she must put quotation marks around the passage and add indication of its origin. Simply changing a word or two while leaving the organization and content substantially intact and failing to cite the source is plagiarism. Students should also note that failure to acknowledge study aids such as CliffNotes, SparkNotes, or other common reference sources constitutes plagiarism.
* All sources, including the sources of ideas, must be acknowledged and cited in ways appropriate to one’s discipline. Sources include, but are not limited to, Internet pages, books, magazines, lyrics, photos, publicly printed matter, government documents, etc.
* Failure to acknowledge sources is plagiarism, regardless of intention.

If a student is unsure about a question or plagiarism or cheating, he or she is encouraged to consult his or her teacher on the matter before submitting the material.

Included in the Range of Possible Consequences (page 49):

The student could be removed or barred from holding or being a candidate for any leadership position where character, honesty, or integrity are stated or implied qualifications, including athletic teams and clubs. Additionally, the student could be denied membership in the National Honor Society.

For further information, please consult the PRSD Code of Conduct K-12 Addendum 1 on Academic Integrity and What is Plagiarism.





Students who follow class rules, contribute to class activities, and maintain a high standard of academic excellence will be rewarded in one of the following ways:

INDIVIDUAL or TEAM REWARDS: CLASS WIDE REWARDS:

1 Participation Bonus Points 1. No Homework or Drop Quiz passes

2. No Homework Pass 2. B-squares

3. Positive phone calls home 3. Small Prizes

 4. Listen to music while doing independent assignments (class chooses the station; I select the volume **or** permitted use of Ipods).

**POINT REDEMPTION**:

 150 5 points in the weighted test average (5 points on a test or essay)

 100 Drop a journal / short writing assignment

 70 Get out of a Quiz/ Drop your lowest quiz grade

 50 Drop your lowest Spelling/Vocabulary test grade.

50 No Homework Pass/ Drop your lowest homework grade

 40 10 Points on a Literature Quiz

30 10 Points on Spelling/ Vocabulary Test

 20 Drop a Do Now/ Exit Ticket/ Entry Ticket Grade

Other rewards to be announced during the school year.

Please note that failure to complete homework or to follow class rules and procedures will result in the loss of participation points.

**TEAM INCENTIVES**

During the first few weeks of school, students will be assigned to a class team. Teams may earn bonus points and class participation points when they collectively follow all classroom procedures or achieve group excellence (e.g., everyone on the team passes a test, turns in their homework, has all materials with them for class). Teams will elect a captain who will be responsible for collecting and distributing daily materials.

In addition to classroom performance, I will look for team cooperative efforts throughout the day. If I find team members helping one another to study or assisting with a difficult homework assignment (this does not mean GIVING someone your homework) those team members, as well as their teammates, will earn Participation Bonus Points.

Please note that failure to complete homework or to follow class rules and procedures will result in the loss of participation bonus points.

During vocabulary and literary reviews, there will be opportunities to earn B-squares (worth 5 participation points); these may be converted into participation points and, eventually, passes.

Students may use B-squares and passes during the quarter as needed, or they may save them until the end of the quarter to drop low grades.

**On-Line Support Communities for Students in English 8**

Recognizing the needs and behaviors of the 21st century learner, I have developed several on-line support systems for the students in my English 8 classes.

**Class Web Page** at missarney.weebly.com :

A class website is maintained to offer students regular access to information about the class. On this site, students may find the weekly class agenda in addition to other class notes, worksheets, assignments, etc. to download for their use. The site’s main English 8 page will provide important notes and reminders for students. This site is updated regularly (weekly, minimally) and is a valuable source of information for students.

**Eschool Data**: This digital, online grading site provides students and parents / guardians access to the grades students are achieving on their various assessments. Parents have been assigned passwords by the district. If you have lost that password, please contact Ms. Wheeler’s office (our Assistant Superintendent). I do not have anything to do with passwords for this program.

 Please visit the Parent Page of my website for a FAQ for my grading procedures with Eschool.

**Jupitergrades:**

Formerly, this was the program I used for digital, on-line grading. Now it is used as a means of communication only as Eschool does not have the ability to send out mass emails in the same manner as JG.

Parents and students will be given passwords on the first day of school; they are then encouraged to set their own passwords and input information such as email addresses and phone numbers.

The email information for parents must be entered by the parent/guardian in order for these updates to be received. If your primary language is Spanish, you may opt to receive messages in this language.

I will utilize the program to send out emails to my students and their parents whenever I feel something important must be shared immediately. An example of such an email might be to alert students to a change in a test or quiz date or to remind them about an important deadline. Parents will be sent these emails too as I recognize that not all teenagers check their emails regularly. **Important:** If you have not given permission for teachers to reply to your child’s email, please input **your** email address into Jupitergrades and you will receive my message in lieu of your child.

**Class Blog:** Students are encouraged to continue class discussions online on the missarney.weebly.com website. Threads are posted with questions to which students are asked to respond. Their participation in these threads will count towards their participation grade and responses will earn B-Squares (5 participation points, sometimes more) per entry.

**Planbookedu.com:** Each week, classwork and homework assignments will be posted on this site. In addition, handouts required for homework (or for supplementing class notes) can be accessed here as well. The specific link to the English 8 agenda for the current school year can be accessed from the class website.

**Juno.com** Occassionally, quizzes, homework assignments, or review materials may be assigned through an online portal through Jupitergrades. Juno can be accessed through the student's Jupitergrades page. When these quizzes or activities are assigned, students should complete them online recognizing that they are timed assignments.

Please do not hesitate to call or email me if you have any questions regarding any of these Internet sites…or regarding any other policies discussed in this introduction to the class.

 **Pearl River High School**

**Pearl River, New York**

**English 8**

***Goals:***

* To provide students with enriched activities to develop critical thinking skills.
* To help students become independent learners.
* To provide a foundation of skills necessary for college and career readiness.
* To develop persuasive, argumentative, expository, and narrative writing.
* To cultivate research skills.
* To improve grammar skills.
* To develop a personal set of study skills.
* To develop and foster note taking skills including annotating texts.
* To evaluate literature critically through verbal and written expression.
* To develop a community of learners both in and outside of the classroom.
* To encourage collaboration of critical thinking through class discussion and blogs.
* To understand the benefits of responsible use of technology.
* To develop close reading skills for fictional and informational texts.
* To use writing to clarify and concretize the thinking process.
* To recognize and appreciate various genres of literature.
* To prepare students for success on the E.L.A. 8 exam.

**Grading/ Weighting \***

Homework: 15%

Spelling/ Vocabulary Tests: 15%

Informal / Short Writings & Journals: 15%

Quizzes: 20% (the summer reading will be assessed in a Q 1 quiz)

Tests/ Essays/ Projects: 25%

Do Now/ Exit Ticket/ Entry Ticket: 5% (a small number of these will be automatically dropped to allow for some absences)

Class Participation: 5%

\*I will adjust the weights in an individual quarter to reflect the emphasis on a particular category. For instance, if only (2) informal writings are required in quarter 1, I will lessen the percentage there and raise it in another category for which there are more asessments.

***Academic Detention***

If necessary, a Friday afternoon academic detention will be enforced. For every homework assignment not completed, a student will owe ½ hour of detention on Friday. Detention begins at 3PM on Friday. If a student cannot attend, he can opt to come the following Friday, but the time owed will double (1/2 hour will become 1 hour). If a student fails to come without telling me of a problem, it will be considered a cut and a referral to the office will be made for a school detention.

The purpose of this is not to be punitive (despite how it may seem). As I indicated before, homework is not meant to keep students busy; it is meant to reinforce skills that are being learned and honed. Homework is an integral part of the course. By offering these detention sessions, students will have a chance to make sure they do not fall too far behind.

If a student uses a homework pass, s/he does not need to serve detention.

No exceptions can be made. Even if a student does his/her homework every night and misses one, s/he must be held to the same expectations as everyone else.

Pearl River High School

Miss Doreen Arney

English 8

2015-2016 Academic Year

*Projected Course Syllabus*

*FIRST SEMESTER*:

**Introduction to the Short Story.**

 How Conflict Builds Characterizaton (Reinforcing Literary Elements):

 “Stop the Sun” (Paulson)

“Good Form” (O’Brien)

“The Banana Tree” (Berry)

“ Miss Awful” (Cavanaugh)

 An Imperfect Future (Dystopia / Science Fiction)

 “The Fun They Had” (Asimov)

 “Harrison Bergeron” (Vonnegut)

 “The Pedestrian” (Bradbury)

 “The Veldt” (Bradbury)

 Tales of the Unexpected (Irony):

“The Open Window” (Saki)

“Charles” (Jackson)

“The Monkey’s Paw” (Jacobs)

“Button Button” (Matheson)

“The Landlady” (Dahl)

“ Ransom of Red Chief” (O’Henry)

**Introduction to the Novel**

 The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

**Review for Midterm Examination**

*SECOND SEMESTER*

Informational Texts / Non-fiction:

* *The Omnivore’s Dilemma: Young Reader’s Edition* – Michael Pollan (excerpts)

**Introduction to Drama / Reflecting on the Holocaust**

* “The Diary of Anne Frank” by Goodrich and Hackett

**Introduction to Poetry**

 **Much of the poetry will be taught in conjunction with short stories & novels. However, there will be a unit of focus on poetry and the literary devices associated with it. This is a short list of some of the works we will study.**

 “Paul Revere’s Ride” “O Captain! My Captain!" “Nothing Gold Can Stay”

**The spring semester is replete with state tests. During this time, students will also be making selections from free choice and limited-free choice of accountable independent reading.**

**ELA 8 Prep**

Everything we do is designed to build students’ skills to be successful on any state examination; however, we will review the parts of the exam and what students should expect towards the end of the 3rd quarter.

Independent Reading**:**

Each quarter, at least (1) independent reading project will be assigned, usually related to the genre or theme we are studying at the time.

**Student Contract.**

**Student name:**

**Please note that these requirements are not designed to make the lives of my 8th grade students more miserable; they are enforced with the understanding that my students are responsible, young adults. I look forward to a productive, successful and rewarding year!**

**Please review the above guidelines with your parents/ guardians. When both of you have reviewed the above, please sign the declaration below. You will keep the packet of materials in the “Reference Materials” section of your binder; simply return this page to me.**

**I have read and understand the above policies related to English 8.**

**student signature**

**Parent Contact Information:**

**Name Cell Phone Number**

 **(Please do not list it if you don’t want me to call it)**

**Home Number & Best time to call:**

**I DO / DO NOT wish to be called at work. Work Number:**

 **(Please do not provide it if you do not wish me to call).**

**Parent Contract**

* **I have read and understand the above policies related to English 8.**

**(Parent Signature)**

**Review, select, and sign all of the below:**

* **I DID / DID NOT give permission for my child’s teachers to reply to his / her emails.**

 **(signature)**

**(If you did not give permission, please let your student know that they should not email me and request a response OR they should use your email address).**

* **I DO / DO NOT give my child permission to participate in the online blog on my website.**

**(Parent Signature)**

* I DO / DO NOT give my child permission to participate in the Friday academic detention program when work is not completed to prevent him/her from getting farther behind.

**(Parent Signature)**