**English 8 - Ms. Blackburn**

Rm. 307, phone ex: 5974

**COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS (CCSS)**

* We are using units developed specifically with the standards in mind. As an important part of the units students will be keeping a reading/writing journal along with completing periodic common assessments.
* **READERS/WRITERS JOURNAL - Need a Composition Notebook**
  + Students will keep a readers/writers journal where they will respond to literature and prompts throughout the year. These journals will be collected periodically, and will be a significant part of the quarter and semester grades.
* **COMMON ASSESSMENTS/ESSAYS/TESTS**
  + The assessments connected with the CCSS range from literary analysis to creative writing, and follow a variety of formats including narratives, essays, letters, oral presentations, and online collaboration.
  + All students must strive to achieve proficiency or above. Opportunities will be given to conference, revise, and resubmit work in order to achieve proficiency.

**MAJOR UNITS CONNECTED WITH THE CCSS**

**1st Quarter**

* Analyzing Theme and Point of View in Short Narrative Texts
  + Literary Analysis in Readers/Writers Notebook
* Analyzing Theme, Short Story Elements, and Language in Novels
  + *Night*
  + Focus on Hero Quest Elements
* Common Assessment: Thematic Short Story - Hero Quest

**2nd Quarter**

* Analyzing Conflicting Information
  + Point of View and Bias in Informational Texts/Current Events
* Using informational Texts to Research Current Events/Contemporary Issues
  + Review of Research Techniques and Tools - Focus on Textual Evidence and Citation
* Writing Informative/Explanatory Text about Current Events/Contemporary Issues
  + Common Assessment: Informative Essay on a Contemporary Issue

**3rd Quarter**

* Reading Literary and Informational Texts to Gain Information
  + Small Group Text Sets on Specific Thematic Ideas and Current Issues
  + Literary Analysis Essay of Texts
* Collecting Relevant and Sufficient Evidence to Support an Argument
  + Research and Discussion in Small Groups
* Writing Arguments to Change Thinking
  + Common Assessment: Argumentative Writing and Multimedia Presentation

**4th Quarter**

* Analyzing the Choices of Authors and Directors
  + Literary Analysis Essay of a Novel, a poem, and a Visual Presentation of the Text
  + *The Outsiders*
* Creating and Reviewing a Movie Trailer
  + Create a Book Trailer

**Late Work Policy:**

Any late daily work will be assessed a 20% deduction. After one week, the deduction is 50%. After two weeks, the assignment will not be accepted for grading.

Any late papers or projects will be assessed a 20% deduction from the final grade up to one week. After this time, the paper will be assessed a 50% deduction.

**Independent Reading:**

Each week all students will receive 20 minutes of independent reading time in class. Students will be required to read only books during this time. Students may bring in their own book or check one out from the classroom library. Any books not returned to the classroom library will result in a lost book fee. Days of I.R. will be delegated by the teacher, but students will be informed ahead of time.

**Supplies you will need for success in this class:**

* A blue or black pen OR a pencil
* Composition Notebook
* A folder with pockets or a three-ring binder
* Independent Reading Book/Novel
* An open mind and willingness to work

**Classroom Behavior Guidelines:**

\*\*Be Here - you should be in your seat when the bell rings.

\*\*Be Respectful - respect the rights, property, and IDEAS of others.

\*\*Be Responsible - your success in this class is based largely on your willingness to work and ask for help when necessary.

\*\*Be Positive - the more open you are to activities, discussions, and opportunities the more you will learn (and the more fun we will have).

**EXTRA credit**

A word on “extra credit”: Extra Credit is offered at the teacher’s discretion only. Extra Credit is optional and is NOT meant to “save” a student from failing a class. Extra credit points are ONLY awarded when students have completed all their daily work. It is, as the name implies, extra—not instead of—credit.