

8th Grade Honors English:Instructor: Ms. Erin Brewer

Email: erbrewer@pvlearners.net

Phone: 602-449-4200 ext. 34254 VoiceLink 72126

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Curriculum Materials

* StudySync: Our "21st century online textbook" (PVUSD adopted curriculum for Grades 7-12) for reading, writing, grammar and vocabulary.

Reading:

* Focusing on critical thinking, students will read and analyze the listed novels, plus various independent reading novels and a collection of short stories and informational texts. Please note that novels may be subject to change. All required novels will be available for check out in the school library, and independent novels will need to be purchased on your own or accessed through the library.

Quarter 1: "Everyone Loves a Mystery"- Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury, plus one fiction AND nonfiction book of your choosing, to be read independently.

Quarter 2: "Past and Present"- The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton, plus one fiction AND nonfiction book of your choosing, to be read independently.

Quarter 3: "No Risk, No Reward"- Animal Farm by George Orwell, plus one fiction AND nonfiction book of your choosing to be read independently.

Quarter 4: "Hear Me Out"- A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare, plus one fiction AND nonfiction book of your choosing to be read independently.

Independent Reading Novels:

*For all four quarters, students will be expected to select their own titles for independent reading. A minimum of two books will be required: one literary text and one informative text relating to the thematic unit.

*Specific requirements will be provided to students each quarter. Students may utilize the school library to check out their novels, otherwise students are responsible for obtaining a hard copy of their chosen text. No digital versions of the text will be allowed and students will be required to bring their book to school with them each day.

*It should be noted that some novels your child may choose to read contain content that may be considered inappropriate for some students, and it is highly recommended that parents preview student's selected novels to ensure

comfortability before allowing permission to read them.

Writing:

*Students will continue to improve their writing skills focusing on a different type of writing each quarter.

Quarter 1: Narrative

Quarter 2: Literary Analysis/Argumentative

Quarter 3: Informative/Explanatory

Quarter 4: Argumentative

* Revision Assistant

Web based program to assist students with the writing process by providing feedback and suggestions to help them revise and improve their writing.

*Grammar: Four Level Analysis

Students use logical thinking to analyze sentence structure as it relates to language and grammar: parts of speech, phrases, clauses, and types of sentences.

*The Word Within the Word

Greek and Latin stem study used to strengthen vocabulary and language skills-- weekly practice assignments, quizzes and review tests (studied first semester and revisited at the end of Quarter 4).

*Vocabulary Workshop

Advanced, high-level vocabulary study including synonyms, antonyms, definitions and etymology—weekly practice assignments, quizzes and review tests (studied second semester).

Supplies

*Spiral notebook (college ruled) or binder with notebook paper

*Dedicated organizational system for English (folder, binder, etc.)

*Pencils, colored pens

*Highlighter(s)

*Optional: post-its, index cards, colored pencils, scissors, glue sticks

*Welcomed Donations: tissue boxes, hand sanitizer, clorox wipes

Classroom Expectations

*Students will be expected to...

Be respectful--of self, classmates and teacher!
Complete all assignments on time and to the best of his/her ability.
Follow expectations for technology use.
Check email and grades regularly.
Obtain, complete, and turn in make-up assignments without teacher prompting.
Advocate for themselves.

Grading Policy:

*Weighted Grading

Classwork/Homework: 40%

Assessments: 60%

Save all returned assignments and see Ms. Brewer if there are any mistakes in Infinite Campus.

Grading Scale

A
100%-89.5%
B
89%-79.5%
C
79%-69.5%
D
69%-59.5%
F
Below 59.5%

Homework and Assignment Policy

Honors students will usually have daily homework assignments and are expected to complete them. All assignments and due dates will be posted on the Weekly Agenda. Most assignments will be accessible online through StudySync or Google Classroom.

Late Work

Classwork and homework are due as assigned. Late assignments will be accepted; however, there will be a 30% deduction of points. (Mid-term and end of quarter are considered final due dates--late assignments will not earn credit after final due dates.)

Students will be given the same amount of days as missed to make up work in the

event of an excused absence.

The due date for Independent Reading assignments and long-term projects will not be automatically extended.

Students are responsible for notifying Ms. Brewer when an online assignment is turned in after the due date.

Cheating

A student who chooses to plagiarize any source, copy another's work, give his/her work to someone else to copy, or use unauthorized sources when testing is in violation of the Honor Code. Any student caught cheating may receive a zero on the assignment (comment of "cheated" in Infinite Campus) and a disciplinary referral.

Teacher Expectations

*Ms. Brewer will...

Treat students fairly and respectfully.
Post grades in a timely manner.
Respond to parent and student emails within 24 hours.
Provide clear instruction and examples for students.
Post and update assignments and due dates on Google Classroom.
Be available for tutoring and assistance at least three days weekly (before/after school by appointment).

*Teacher Signature: *Ms. Brewer*

Student Expectations

*Each student should...

Be on time, prepared, respectful, and follow given directions.
Take responsibility for obtaining and turning in work after any absence.
Check email, grades, and Google Classroom frequently.
Complete all assignments to the best of his/her ability.
Utilize technology appropriately, effectively, and safely
Advocate for him/herself.

Parent Expectations

*Parents should...

Hold your child accountable for reading, studying, and assignment completion.
Check Infinite Campus regularly; address questions to your child first and Ms. Brewer second. Help your child learn to advocate for him/herself.

Respectful, Responsible, & Safe Use of Technology Contract

***Responsible**

I will only use my assigned classroom device, and I will use it carefully and respectfully to avoid damage. If I notice that my assigned device is damaged, I will notify the teacher immediately. I will keep the default settings on my assigned device. I will log in to my own account when I use my assigned Chromebook, and I will log out when I am finished using it. I will stay on task and keep all other tabs closed when I am working on a specific task or taking a test. I will use my own words and do all of my own work. I will avoid plagiarism and give credit to any sources I use. I understand that using technology is a privilege that may be revoked if I am irresponsible.

***Respectful**

I will not use classroom devices (including my own device) to play games, surf, use social media, text, or use applications other than those designated for a specific educational purpose by the teacher. I will only use my device when it is an appropriate time (not when the teacher is talking or giving directions). I will not let it distract me from learning. I will be kind and constructive when making comments on another person's essay, blog, project, etc. I will treat others the way that I wish to be treated when using technology. I will be a responsible online citizen and be courteous and kind to others.

***Safe**

I will tell my teacher if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable or if someone treats me disrespectfully online. I will not share or publish my last name, address, telephone number, or other identifying information Online. I understand that everything I do online leaves a digital footprint that does not go away.

Sign, detach, and return this page to Ms. Brewer by Friday, August, 12th (you should keep the complete syllabus for your records).

*I have read and understood the class syllabus, expectations, and technology agreement for 8th Grade Honors English. *

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Parent Contact Information:

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Honors English 8 Cell Phone Policy

- Per school policy, **there will be no cell phones allowed out during class time** unless otherwise instructed.
- Students will be required to show Ms. Brewer that they have turned off their cell phone before entering the classroom.
- Cell phones will be kept in students' backpacks for the duration of class.
- Students may access their cell phones before and after school, during passing periods, and during lunch.
- In addition to this cell phone policy, no air pods or other cordless headphones will be permitted on campus whatsoever.
- Students should bring their own **corded headphones** that they may use for educational opportunities during class time with their school issued chromebook.

Students who are found using a cell phone and/or airpods during class time will receive one verbal warning, and in the event of a second infraction they will be asked to drop off their device(s) in the front office for the duration of the school day.

I have read and understood Ms. Brewer's cell phone and airpod policy, and my signature below indicates that I agree to abide by her expectations:

Student name: _____ **Block:** _____

Student signature: _____

I have read and understood Ms. Brewer's cell phone and airpod policy and will hold my child accountable for following her expectations

Parent signature: _____

Sign and return this form by Friday, August 12th

Let's have a great school year!