



# Norterra Canyon School

*Theresa Milks, Principal*

*Sam Robarge, Assistant Principal*

## **Stacy Mahoney 8th ELA** Teacher Syllabus Expectations

*Parent Involvement is all about our working together to make the best educational experience possible for each and every student. Research shows that your participation in your child's education will boost his or her achievement in school. At Norterra Canyon, we are committed to treat parents as partners while keeping lines of communication open and focused on the needs of your student. Mutual trust and respect between parents and teachers is required to maintain a positive learning experience. We believe that your trust in the staff at Norterra Canyon is required to ensure your child's success.*

### ***About the Teacher - Stacy Mahoney***

*I have a Bachelor's degree in Education from Arizona State University with an ESL endorsement and a specialization in Mathematics, a Master's Degree in Education in Reading Instruction and Curriculum from Grand Canyon University and am a Doctoral Candidate at Grand Canyon University in Organizational Leadership and Management in Education. I am Highly Qualified in both Middle School Language Arts and Mathematics and have a Gifted Endorsement. I am also pursuing National Board Certification.*

*I have taught ELA for the last 5 years. Prior to coming to Norterra Canyon, I spent 32 years with the Federal Aviation Administration as an air traffic controller and a manager at Phoenix Sky Harbor Tower. During my time with the FAA, I also taught 4<sup>th</sup> grade ELA and Social Studies in the Madison school district and 7<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics at Desert Sky Middle School. I am also a U.S. Air Force Veteran.*

*I have two daughters. Stephanie is a professional wedding photographer in Phoenix and Katie works and lives in Spokane, WA. I have a bunch of dogs and two horses. In my spare time, I love to ride and show my horses, Otis and Harper.*

*I love riding my horses, playing with my dogs, kayaking, traveling, reading, cooking, sewing and just about anything crafty.*

**Course Description:**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA is a rigorous course that encompasses reading, writing, speaking and listening skills in preparation for high school. Students will be expected to reflect and respond to various texts and literature. They will be challenged to think critically and encouraged to share their thoughts and opinions in various ways. This course is aligned with the Arizona College and Career Readiness standards for English Language Arts. This includes all of the standards under the following four different categories:

- Reading Standards for Literature
- Reading Standards for Informational Text
- Writing Standards
- Language Standards

[DVUSD English Language Arts Resources for Parents](#)

In each quarter, we will have several Units that focus on the following as well as supporting units:

**Quarter 1 Quarter 2 Quarter 3 Quarter 4** August-October October-December

January-March March-May

<b><i>Fiction Literature Reading</i></b>	<b><i>Non-Fiction/ Informative Reading</i></b>	<b><i>Fiction &amp; Non-Fiction/ Informative Reading</i></b>	<b><i>Anne Frank Fiction &amp; Non-Fiction/ Informative Reading</i></b>
<b><i><u>The Power of Story/ Narrative Writing Unit</u></i></b>	<b><i>Informative Writing Speaking and Listening <u>Extraordinary Lives Unit/Informational Unit</u></i></b>	<b><i>Argumentative Writing Speaking and Listening <u>Everything's an Argument Unit</u></i></b>	<b><i>Informative Reading Argumentative &amp; Informative Writing</i></b>
<b><i>NOVELS</i></b>	<b><i>NOVELS</i></b>	<b><i>NOVELS</i></b>	<b><i>NOVELS</i></b>
<b><i>The Outsiders Advanced - The Outsiders Animal Farm</i></b>	<b><i>I Am Malala Advanced - I Am Malala</i></b>	<b><i>Anne Frank Advanced -</i></b>	<b><i>Fahrenheit 451 Advanced - Fahrenheit 451</i></b>

**Additional Short Stories and Poems that may be used during the year include:**

- "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry
- "Thank You, M'am" by Langston Hughes
- "The Necklace" by Guy de Maupassant

- "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson
- "The End of Something" by Ernest Hemingway

**Course Objectives:**

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- Using the IB MYP course format, students will engage in the study of many aspects of the language and literature of communities and their cultures. The student will study a wide range of literary and non-literary text types, writing styles and techniques, allowing the students to comment on the significance of any possible contexts, audiences, purpose and the use of linguistic and literary devices. Students will develop skills in reading informational text and literature, writing, listening and speaking, and language conventions. Students will be able to create strong arguments using textual evidence to support analyses. Students will be able to identify and discuss various elements and genres of literature. Students will improve vocabulary and comprehension skills, and develop speaking and listening skills through shared inquiry and class presentations.

***Required Text and Resources***

- *Study Sync Core ELA Grade 8*

*Students will be able to access the book online.*

- *Roundtable, Level 3(Junior Great Books)*
- *Novels: As Assigned (See chart above)*

