Renaissance Middle School

Grade 8 English Language Arts
Instructional Syllabus
2025 -2026

RMS Course Syllabus	
Teacher Name	**Ms. Talia Hill, hillt6@fultonschools.org** **Ms. Dominique Smith, smithd41@fultonschools.org** **Ms. Catrina Taylor, taylorc9@fultonschools.org** **Ms. Lynsy Warren, warrenl1@fultonschools.org**
Textbook	• **Textbooks: My Perspectives (Grade 8) Savvas Learning Company available on Classlink** • **Other Resources: A variety of other reading and writing material will be used related to the standards.**
Course Description	**This course is designed to teach students reading skills and strategies as they read a variety of literature from a variety of text. They will study the features that characterize narratives when reading stories, novels, and personal experience essays. In addition, reading informational texts will be an important component of this course.** **Our curriculum will focus on the Georgia's English Language Arts Standards (Language, Texts, and Practices) which includes Balanced Literacy and Informational Text, Building Knowledge in the Discipline, providing a staircase to text complexity, require text-based answers, focus on evidence in writing, and expanding vocabulary. Additionally, students will be preparing for a rigorous testing system called The Georgia Milestones Assessment. This standardized assessment will (include open-ended questions to gauge students' content mastery.)** **This year, students will be encouraged to read the equivalent of 25 books or the equivalent to 1,000,000 words. This goal will be met through readings in class and in other content area classes, as well as outside reading that will take place at home. Students will be expected to read various genres of self-selected books and respond to literature in a variety of ways.** **Additionally, students will be required to complete assignments on various sites e.g., SAVVAS Realize, Canvas, Nearpod, Write Score, and iReady to name a few. These assignments will be discussed and assigned in class. Students are responsible for completing these assignments in a timely manner by checking the due dates on the assignments.**
Units of Study	• Unit 1 – Rites of Passage • Unit 2 – What Matters • Unit 3 – Intelligence • Unit 4 – Inventions • Unit 5 – Remembering the Past

Grading Weights			
	Midde School Courses	**High School Courses**	**EOC Courses (2nd Semester)**
Major Assessments (ex. Tests)	50%	55%	40%
Minor Assessments (ex. Quizzes)	40%	35%	30%
Practice (ex. Classwork)	10%	10%	10%
EOC			20%

Recovery on Major Assessments:
Students in K-12 should be afforded the opportunity to recover all major assessments if they score below 75% on the assessment. Students are limited to one recovery attempt per major assessment that meets the threshold for recovery.

- Recovery of a major assessment should occur before the next major is given.
- Students are eligible to earn a replacement grade on a recovery that is not higher than 75%.
- Before recovery, the teacher should work with the student to complete missing work and/or ensure delivery of the content through reteaching and relearning.
- If a student's recovery is below the original score, the original score should stand in the gradebook.
- The original score should be noted in the comment section of the grade book if a student recovers a major assessment.

Late Work:
Students are expected to submit all their work on time. Percentage points will be deducted from the assignment grade for late work. The maximum percentage that can be deducted for late work is 10%.

Responsible AI Use Encouraged with Teacher Permission:
Students are encouraged to use AI tools responsibly in this course with teacher permission to assist with their learning and assignments. AI can serve as an aid to enhance understanding and interaction with course content, within the boundaries of academic integrity. All AI-generated content must be accurately cited, and students are responsible for the correctness of their submissions, including any content derived from AI tools. It is essential to critically evaluate AI outputs to ensure they meet academic standards. Use of generative AI, without proper citation, is considered a violation of the Fulton County Schools Code of Conduct and may result in disciplinary action.

Please return the signed syllabus to the instructor before the end of week one for extra credit. Students will keep the syllabus in their AVID Notebook.

Student Name (Print)	
Student Signature	
Parent Signature	
Parent Email Address	
Parent Phone Number	