



8th Grade English 2025-2026 Instructional Plan

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What is Honors?

The purpose of honors courses is to bridge the gap between regular and Advanced Placement (AP) or Pre-AP classes. They serve as an important part of a tiered academic pathway by offering more rigorous instruction and deeper learning than standard courses.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This year we will develop students' critical thinking skills by studying reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language skills. Students will also learn about:

- Vocabulary
- Spelling
- Grammar
- Multiple genres
- Argumentative/persuasive writing
- STAAR prep

COURSE ACTIVITIES (What we will be doing)

Below you will find descriptions of the most common activities that students will participate in during the course of each semester.

- Organizing and drafting writing including a Hero's Journey Narrative and an Argumentative Essay
- Reading a variety of texts on different topics to deepen understanding of the course topics
- Reading a novel and engaging in discussion over the reading
- Reading independently and participating in class assignments and discussions
- Participating in literature circles
- Preparing for STAAR

During each unit, students will be responsible for independently reading a book from the pre-approved choice list. At the end of the unit, students will independently complete a project over the book for a Major grade. The school does have some copies of some of the books that students may check out. We do not have copies of all of the books. Students may also purchase their own copies or borrow from the library.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND TOPICS

- Unit 1- The Challenge of Heroism: Hero's Journey
- Unit 2- The Challenge of Utopia: Utopian/Dystopian study, novel study *Fahrenheit 451*
- Unit 3- The Challenge to Make a Difference: Literature Circles, multi-genre

Interactive Student Notebooks (ISN)

Students will keep an Interactive Student Notebook in English throughout the school year. Notes and many assignments will be completed in this notebook. Students will use this notebook each class day, so students will need to bring their folder and notebook to class daily. If notebooks are lost they will need to be replaced, along with all notes and assignments for that semester.

GRADES - Click here for → [YWLA Grading Policy](#)

- Major (Test, Projects, Writing) 60%
- Minor (Notes, Daily Work, Quizzes) 40%

Classroom Resources

- Google Classroom
- Quill
- College Board Springboard resources

STAAR Date: April 14, 2026

Tutorials

Tutorials are scheduled before and after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Cheating

A student's work is to be original and not plagiarized. Students should be aware that using information gathered from any AI writing assistant, unless specifically directed to by a teacher, is plagiarism and will result in a referral and a failed assignment, which can be corrected for up to a 50. Should any student be deemed in violation of the cheating or plagiarism guidelines, parents will be notified and disciplinary actions taken.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We are excited to work together to make this a successful year of learning!
