

Welcome to 8th Grade Humanities

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Welcome to the eighth grade! We're excited to embark on this journey with you and look forward to getting to know you better throughout the year. Please take some time to read through this syllabus with your parents or guardian. Once you've reviewed it together, please keep the syllabus for future reference and sign at the bottom to return it to your teacher.

Our Humanities course is designed to enhance your skills in reading, writing, and critical thinking, both in language arts and historical contexts. Throughout the school year, we'll focus on developing strong reading habits, deepening your understanding of classroom novels and texts, and exploring U.S. history to better understand the foundations of our society. These three areas are at the core of our year-long mission. At Cashmere Middle School, all eighth-grade students will grow as readers, become more effective writers, and strengthen their critical thinking abilities.

Materials for Class

Please bring all of the following materials to class daily:

- Charged Chromebook and Charger
- Independent Reading Book (IRB)
- Pencils/Pens
- Composition Notebook

Chromebooks and Google Classroom

All students at CMS will have a Chromebook checked out to them at the beginning of this year. It is your responsibility to take care of your Chromebook and keep it charged for use every day. Proper digital citizenship will be taught and is expected of students at all times at home and at school. Google Classroom will be used in eighth-grade English/Language Arts.

Grading 2026-2027

Reported Grades will reflect:

85% Summative Assessment (connected to standards)

15% Practice (daily work and practice)

0% Behavior (Exceptional = E, Satisfactory = S, Unsatisfactory = U) -Formerly known as life skills

When you check your student's grades, you will now see an overall course grade in a traditional A-F format. In previous years, students received a grade on a scale of 4-1, so this may be an adjustment for most families. You will see that all assignments and assessments are tied to a specific grade level standard. Grades may be accessed by visiting Family Access on Skyward. Contact information can be found on the CMS website under the "Teacher" tab or by e-mail as indicated.

*Please note the following:

"NE" or "No Evidence" typically means that the assignment was not turned in.

Behavior:

Please note that behavior is reflected on Skyward as 0% of the student's overall grade. However, as per our CMS handbook, a poor behavior grade will result in ineligibility for sports and other extracurricular activities.

The eighth-grade team has high expectations for eighth graders. We expect the following to receive an "Exceptional" grade in Behavior:

- Coming to class prepared and on time
- Proper use of technology
- Respect for teachers and peers
- Turning in assignments on time
- Following the CMS handbook
- Going above and beyond to contribute to a successful classroom environment

Academy Grades:

All academy grades will be based on current grade level standards being taught and assessed at each grade level in all content areas. Pass/Fail based on behavior and work ethic.

Retake Policy:

Students can show understanding through multiple assessment opportunities.

Attendance

Attendance in class is extremely important. If you are absent from class you miss out on instructions, lessons, conversations, funny stories, teamwork, and questions. If you are absent, it is your responsibility as a student to meet with your teacher to find out what you missed and how you can catch up. For planned absences, please communicate with the front office. Use Google Classroom if and when you are absent to keep up with all work.

Reading

Students are expected to always have an independent reading book that they are reading at home and in class. Eighth graders should be reading at least one hundred minutes a week, recording their weekly page progress in their composition notebook.

Communication

Google Classroom will be used as a hub of assignments, resources, and as a communication tool. It is very important to frequently check your "To Do" list in Google Classroom in order to stay on top of assignments. It is much easier to catch missed assignments and/or below standard grades by being proactive. Please check Skyward and your Google Calendar regularly.

ClassTag is our school's designated tool for parent communication. Please feel free to contact me via ClassTag, email, or phone. I look forward to a wonderful year!

AI Expectations

As part of our commitment to ethical and responsible use of technology, our class follows the Cashmere School District Technology & AI User Agreement. Students are expected to adhere to district expectations when using AI tools.

For each assignment, one of the following AI Use Levels will be clearly indicated:

◆ AI Recommended

You are encouraged to use generative AI tools to support and enhance your work.

Examples include brainstorming, outlining, drafting, or revising.

Requirements:

- Clearly indicate how AI was used.
- Provide proper attribution or citation of AI-generated content.

◆ AI Permitted

You may choose to use generative AI tools to assist you, but it is not required.

Requirements:

- Any AI-generated content must be cited or acknowledged.
- You are still responsible for understanding and justifying the final product.

AI Restricted

No AI tools are allowed for this assignment. All work must be completed using your own knowledge and skills.

Examples: In-class writing assessments, personal reflections, skill checks.

 If AI use is not clearly indicated for an assignment, assume it is restricted and ask your teacher before using any AI tools.

Humanities Year-long Plan

	Reading	Writing	Social Studies
1st Quarter	Reader's Workshop Launch Realistic Fiction Novels Class Read: <i>The Outsiders</i>	Literary Essays Personal Narratives	Lesson 2: European Exploration and Settlement Lesson 3: English Colonies in North America Lesson 4: Life in the Colonies
2nd Quarter	Realistic Fiction Class Read: <i>Inside Out and Back Again</i> College and Career Research	Finishing Personal Narrative Start Tapping the Power of Nonfiction	Lesson 5: Towards Independence Lesson 6: Declaration of Independence Lesson 7: The Revolutionary War
3rd Quarter	Non-Fiction Research	Conclude Tapping the Power of Nonfiction Non-Fiction Slide Shows	Lesson 8: Creating the Constitution Lesson 9: A More Perfect Union Lesson 10: Bill of Rights

4th Quarter	Teacher Selected Test Prep for SBA	The CBA (from U.S. History)	US History CBA Assessment Class Voted Chapters
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Sincerely,

Jaden Williams

Olivia Newberry

Colton Loomis

I have read and understood the expectations of 8th Grade ELA.

Parent/Guardian signature_____

Student signature_____