Sinaloa Middle School
A California School To Watch
A California Gold Ribbon School
2026-2027

Course: Honors IM English 8
Teacher: Amy Aras, Ed.D

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I. Introduction

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! I am excited to be your child's English teacher this year. This is my 21st year teaching at Sinaloa Middle School. Prior to that, I taught English, Reading and Social Studies and Study Skills for 7th and 8th graders, and I taught English as a Second Language to adults in Geneva, Switzerland. I have a Bachelor's Degree in English, a Master's Degree in Education, and a Doctorate in Language, Literacy and Learning. Most importantly, however, I have a true love of middle schoolers!

II. Course Standards/Objectives

Educational standards describe what students should know and be able to do in each subject in each grade. In California, the State Board of Education decides on the standards for all students, from kindergarten through high school. Information regarding specific standards can be found at www.cde.ca.gov.

This International-Mindedness (IM) course is an Honors level course that uses the approaches to learning taught in Royal High School's International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma program. Students will learn the state-mandated course curriculum at an accelerated pace and will also explore global challenges through critical thinking, making real-world connections, and personal reflection. IM courses aim to develop students into open-minded, active, and caring members of local and global communities. This year, students will be exposed to short stories, novels, non-fiction, poetry, and drama, in addition to written and oral expression. Through this course, it is my hope that students will emerge with a better appreciation of the written and spoken word and that s/he will be ready and equipped for high school English next year as well as prepared for the IB pathway.

Course Schedule

The following schedule will be followed throughout the school year. Please use this as a general outline, as its order may change depending on student needs.

1. Introduction to Class/Rules, Procedures, etc.
2. Textbook collection #1 (Culture and Belonging) & I Will Always Write Back with international penpal exchange
3. Textbook collection #2 (The Thrill of Horror)
4. Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde
5. Textbook collection #5 (Anne Frank's Legacy) including reading The Diary of Anne Frank
6. Career Research project

7. *Much Ado About Nothing*

**** Spelling, Grammar, Vocabulary, and Writing will be taught all year long*

III. Classroom Rules/Student Responsibilities

- Sinaloa's SABER CODE is the foundation for behavior expectancies on our campus. This Code, along with our standards for citizenship/work habits grades, the school tardy policy, and the school discipline policies, are included in the Agenda book which can be found online at sinaloa.simivalleyusd.org.

There are the following rules/guidelines in our classroom:

1. Come to class prepared. **#Priorities**
2. Work hard. **#SaveTheExcuses**
3. Follow Directions. **#KeepCalm&FollowOn**
4. Listen. **#TuneIn**
5. Try your best. **#Goal** Be responsible. **#YouAreInChargeOfYou**
6. Stay seated. **#Don'tJUMPJUMPJUMPAround**
7. Be kind. #**KindnessMatters**
8. Be respectful. **#TreatOthersHowYouWantToBeTreated**
9. Have a positive attitude. **#AttitudeDeterminesDirection**
10. Respect yourself. **#BeBold #BeBrave #BeYou**

Consequences:
If students choose not to follow the rules, the following consequences may occur: verbal warnings, brief time-out from class, possible detention after school, parent contact, class suspension, or office referrals.

Rewards:
If students choose to follow the rules, the following consequences may occur: verbal praise, a positive text/email home, extra time on their laptops or a positive office referral.

Textbooks/Materials To Be Used:
It is the student's responsibility to be prepared for class each day. Suggested materials are...

a) **COVERED** class textbook (California Collections, 8)
b) English section of a 3-ring binder or folder (for English class handouts)
c) Student agenda book
   - The **Agenda Book** is very important in helping students develop organizational skills. Students will be asked to record any homework in their agenda book daily.
   - Silent reading book
     - IM Honors English students will be participating in a Reading Challenge and should have a silent reading book with them at all times.

**** Please note, laptops will be used predominantly in our English class with more than enough time in class for work completion. Students are welcome to bring their own earbuds for academic use only.***

If you are unable to get materials, please see the teacher so together a plan can be put into place to ensure students are prepared for class each and every day!

IV. Grading Policy

The student's degree of mastery of the Common Core State standards is the critical element in determining the letter grade in this class. Students will demonstrate mastery **toward** the standards through classwork,

homework, and quizzes. Likewise, they will demonstrate mastery **in** the standards through tests, projects, and essays. Students have the opportunity to reassess after showing additional evidence they have mastered concepts; methods of reassessment will be determined with the teacher and provided to the student. Students will have **ONE WEEK** from the return of the assessment to submit/complete their revision.

Final due dates for late/missing/revised work are as follows:
Semester 1: December 11 **Semester 2: May 14**

Late Work Policy
Although on-time work is strongly preferred, late work will be accepted for credit if: Work is turned in within 5 school days of the due date. Students need to email Mrs. Aras when the late work is submitted. Students who have an excused absence will have those additional days to make up work.

Students will be required to check their grades on AERIES each week in class in order to determine their mastery of the standards. This information is also available to parents. Because of this, it is highly recommended that both students and parents activate their AERIES portal accounts (if you have not already done so).

Overall grade make-up:

25% = Reading
25% = Writing
25% = Listening and Speaking
25% = Language

All grades will be based on the following scale:

100 -98	A+	89 – 88	B+	79 – 78	C+	69 – 68	D+	59 and below: F
97 – 93	A	87 – 83	B	77 – 73	C	67 – 63	D	
92 – 90	A-	82 – 80	B-	72 – 70	C-	62 – 60	D-	

Please note, the International Mindedness classroom is a collaborative learning environment. Students will work on various partner and group activities. Because of this, daily attendance and active, cooperative participation is important. If a student is absent, he/she may miss opportunities that are unable to be made up.

Student compliance (completing classwork, submitting assignments on time, etc.) will be addressed in the student's Work Habits grade using the following scale:

O	Always completes all work/Always submits work on time (1-2 late assignments)
S	Mostly completes work/Most work is submitted on time (3-4 late assignments)

N	Occasionally completes work/Occasionally submits work on time (5-6 late assignments)
U	Rarely completes work/Rarely submits work on time (6+ late assignments)

Per English department policy, extra credit assignments are at the teacher's discretion. From time to time, extra credit may be given.

There may also be a few nights when formal homework is given. However, homework typically consists of work students did not finish during the school day, and of course, they are always encouraged to spend some time enjoying the pursuit of reading.

Absences:

1) Students must make up **ALL** work missed due to absences. **It is the responsibility of the student to find out missed assignments by checking Google Classroom, and/or with the teacher.** The teacher will **NOT** remind students to make up work.
2) **If the student requires extra help from the teacher, it is the responsibility of the student to arrange some time at lunch or after school with the teacher**. **I am available every Tuesday at lunch.**
3) Tests missed during an absence must be made up. **My test makeup day is Tuesday at lunch**. Students must make up missed tests on the first Tuesday following their return. It is the responsibility of the student to attend makeup test days without reminder from the teacher.

Plagiarism Policy:

Work submitted for this class must be entirely the work of the student. Any information from other sources must be properly cited. In order to best avoid plagiarism, whether intentional or not, all edits for assignments posted on Google Classroom must be done on the documents provided by the teacher where edit history can be accessed. Any assignments that are copy/pasted, in part or in its entirety, from any sources including from AI, online sources, or other documents (whether owned by the student or otherwise) will not be accepted and will result in an F on the assignment and a referral to administration.

I am looking forward to working with you this year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Aras

Honors IM English 8 Course Management Plan signature page

_____ _____

Student Name (printed) Date

_____ _____

Student Signature Date

_____ _____

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Block _____