

English 8/Honors 8 Syllabus

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Welcome to the new school year and welcome to the Public Academy for Performing Arts! I am excited to have the opportunity to work with you this year, and I look forward to learning more about you. Together we will work toward furthering your education and ensuring your success in English 8. You will be expected to work to the best of your ability and behave in a courteous and respectful manner at all times. By working together, I am certain we will enjoy a challenging and rewarding school year!

Materials Needed for the Class

Course Novels

We will read the two texts below throughout the year:

- *The Outsiders* by S.E.Hinton
- *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd

We may also read any of the following texts throughout the year (Honors WILL read these texts):

- Ray Bradbury and W. W. Jacobs
- Excerpts from Jack London (*The Call of the Wild*, *White Fang*, *To Build a Fire*)
- Holes (Film and Novel)
- Edgar Allen Poe (a variety)
- Poems from Emily Dickinson, Stephen Crane, Langston Hughes, Sylvia Plath, and many more

I will provide all texts both in physical and digital copies or you may purchase your own copy of the novel so you may annotate directly into the book. You may also download digital copies of the novels to your electronic reading device such as a tablet or electronic reader. Please note that if you use your electronic device for anything but academic purposes, it will be confiscated and turned into the office in accordance with school policy.

Supply List

1. Composition notebook (please NO spirals or binders)
2. 3 Different colored Highlighters
3. Sticky notes or tabs
4. Pens and pencils

Assignments

- All assignments are due on the assigned date.
- All assignments must be arranged by date in the appropriate section of your notebook.
- If plan to be absent on a due date, you must make arrangements to turn in your work before the due date.
- *Late work will not be accepted unless the late work procedure is carefully followed.*

**Assignment and Exam Resubmission

Class and homework assignments can be resubmitted and graded for full credit if and ONLY IF **The original assignment was COMPLETED and turned in ON TIME.**

Exams, assessments, and projects may be resubmitted for **HALF** of the lost percentage credits if and ONLY IF **The original assignment was COMPLETED and turned in ON TIME.** This can be kind of confusing so let me offer an example.

If a student receives a 70% on an exam or project, the lost credit is 30%. This means they can resubmit for up to 15% more, which would change the exam or project grade to an 85% (70% + 15% = 85%)

ALL RESUBMISSIONS MUST BE TURNED IN WITHIN 5 DAYS IN ORDER TO RECEIVE RESUBMISSION CREDIT

Course Requisites

Course Description

Over the course of the year, you will engage in reading and writing activities and assessments based on understanding of concepts, summary, identification, and analysis. These skills are traced through the Common Core State Standards, New Mexico End of Course Exam, progress toward high school graduation requirements, and college and career readiness. This course will prepare you for academic success at PAPA by establishing strong foundational skills necessary to excel in all content areas. You will develop proficiency in reading, writing, speaking and listening; in expressing your ideas about the human condition; and studying the techniques used by published writers both ancient and modern.

Link to NM Instructional Scope for 8th Grade

<https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/8th-Grade-ELA-NMIS-2.0.pdf>

Instructional Methods

I use a wide-variety of instructional techniques to facilitate learning. My lessons are rigorous and fast-paced, yet I have also designed them to meet the needs of all students. My methodologies may include lectures, visual presentations, and class discussions, as well as hands-on approaches such as close reading and annotation, small group activities, research projects, computer-based learning and presentations, and a variety of artistic interpretations of material. Using a variety of methods gives every student the opportunity to be challenged yet successful.

Technology Usage

Technology will play a major role in your English 10 learning experience. All Chromebooks will be provided by the school. We will also use the Google Suite such as Google Docs, Google Slides, and Google Drive to type essays, create presentations, and share files regularly.

Assessments and Grading

Assessments will take a variety of forms in this course. Traditional assessments such as tests, quizzes, and homework will be used in addition to performance-based assessments such as projects, presentations, and group work. This variety of assessment will allow you to demonstrate your strengths while working toward academic success. Grades will be based on a percentage system using the traditional scale:

100 - 90%	A
89 - 80%	B
79 - 70%	C
69 - 60%	D
59% and below	F

In addition to class assessments, you will also be required to take state and district mandated assessments. More information about the assessments will be provided as the year progresses.

Course Expectations, Policies, and Procedures

Respect Yourself

- Honor your learning experience by always being prepared, on time, focused, and confident.
- Maintain a growth mindset and don't fall into the trap of a fixed mindset. If something is difficult, remember that it will get easier through practice and perseverance.

Respect Your Environment

- Keep the classroom clean and organized by always picking up after yourself. Don't write on desks, and put your supplies away where they belong.

Respect Your Peers

- Everyone learns differently. Always honor their need to learn by being quiet when it is time to be quiet, stay on task during group assignments, and contribute your ideas to group discussions.

Respect Your Teacher

- Remember that your teacher is on your side. All assignments and activities have been designed to prepare you for whatever life throws at you. Don't interrupt lessons, and remember that your teacher will always try to do what is best for the whole group.

Attendance/Tardy Policy

When the final bell for class rings, you must be in the classroom. I strictly follow the published PAPA attendance policy. If you reach the maximum number of unexcused absences/tardies under the policy, I will notify administrative personnel for a parent conference or WF from my class.

Missed Assignments/Exam Procedure

Whenever you are absent, send me a quick email letting me know that you will not make it to class. Usually, I can send you the makeup work on the same day of your absence so you do not fall behind. If you will be absent from school for two or more days, your parent or guardian should notify the school so that other assignments may be collected and sent to you at home. It is your responsibility to inform your teachers that you will be absent and to request any and all make-up work.

Once you have returned to class, all make-up and alternative assignments must be completed within the number of school days equal to or less than the number of school days you have been absent.

Class Participation

All students are expected to take an active part in the learning environment of the classroom. This means coming to class on time, being prepared to learn, and working cooperatively with your peers. The more you participate, the more you will learn!

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any attempts to plagiarize or cheat will result in the automatic loss of credit for all students involved. Additionally, parent contact and a referral to the administration are options that will be used at the teacher's discretion.

Communication

The best way to contact me is by email, however you may also call me at the school at (505) 830-3128 ext. 24618 and leave a voicemail.

The expectations I have for you are the same as the expectations you will find throughout any school system, in colleges, other post-secondary educational institutions, social environments, and the workplace. Our goal is to help you acquire skills you can use for a lifetime.

You may contact me by email at JChavez@paparts.org. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Jacob Chavez, M.A. Ed
ELA 8th/8th Honors/ 10th/ 10th Pre-AP
Public Academy for Performing Arts

This syllabus is a tentative outline of this course and may be changed as deemed necessary by the instructor.

