8th Grade English

Team 802 Yale

Mrs. Miller

Rm. 112

Cimarron Middle School

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Welcome to eighth grade English! I am excited to have you in my class and I know we will have a successful year practicing and increasing our knowledge of the English language! We will study all of the language arts: listening, speaking, reading, writing, grammar, and vocabulary.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

* Enable students to be fluent, effective communicators and lifelong learners who have an understanding of language and its importance in their lives
* Develop students’ language proficiency to prepare them for college, career and citizenship
* Go beyond the basics of literature and grammar to ensure that students can successfully solve problems and think both critically and creatively in *all s*ubject areas

**COURSE MATERIALS:**

* Textbooks: McDougal Littel *Literature* 2008, McDougal Littel *Grammar for Writing* 2008, Houghton Mifflin *Write Source* 2005
* Novels: *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton, *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck, *The Diary of Anne Frank* (drama) by Frances Goodrich, and *Chasing Lincoln’s Killer* by James Swanson. Alternative selections are *Bruiser* and *Unwind* by Neal Shusterman and *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. \***Copies of these will be provided by the school but some students prefer to purchase their own so that they can take notes and highlight in them**.
* Loose-leaf notebook paper
* Pencils/Pens/Highlighters **\*It is YOUR job to come to class every day with a writing utensil. Do not rely on others to bring supplies for you**.
* Folder for handouts
* Spiral or composition notebook
* Agenda or somewhere to record the assignment and due date
* A book to read

**TEACHING METHODS:** A variety of instructional methods will be used to meet individual needs and to encourage higher level thinking skills. These may include group learning, lecture, notes, discussion, creative problem solving, brainstorming, accelerated content, independent/group research, questioning, thematic unit development, and interdisciplinary units.

**EXPECTATIONS & RULES:** I expect you to come to class prepared and ready to learn every day with a positive, respectful attitude. I realize that we all have rough days here and there, but I still expect you to treat others courteously. I have a few rules for basic classroom conduct and eight expectations that will shape our learning environment. Please understand that these rules are in addition to the policies outlined in the student handbook.

Classroom Rules:

1. **Be prompt** and in your seat before the bell rings
2. **Be prepared** with everything you need for class that day
3. **Be polite** and use the manners you have been taught
4. **Be respectful** in the way you treat all people and property
5. **Be responsible** by listening to and following directions the first time they are given
6. **Be trustworthy** so that you may be counted on to do as you have promised and not to lie, cheat or steal.

**Making the choice to not follow the rules will have consequences. Just as every student is a unique individual, each situation may warrant different consequences. I reserve the right to choose a consequence that fits the given scenario. The following steps will be my guideline for dealing with those who choose to not follow the rules.**

1. Verbal Warning
2. Teacher-Student Conversation/Seat Change/Time Out
3. Detention/ Parent Contact/Teacher’s Choice
4. Team Conference
5. Referral

**\*Detentions will either be served at lunch or before/after school. If there is a conflict with the time you are assigned detention, I need an email or phone call from your parent so we can arrange another time.**

**EVALUATION TOOLS**: Students will be evaluated through daily grades, homework, quizzes, unit tests, semester tests, outside reading/writing, and research/performance grades.

**EVALUATION PLAN:**

Tests, Projects, Research 50%

Daily Grades and Quizzes 30%

 Semester Exam 15%

Benchmarks 5%

If a student makes below a 60% on ANY assignment for my class (excluding the benchmarks and semester tests), he or she MUST make arrangements with me to redo/retake it before or after school. Bus transportation will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:30pm for the After School Advantage (ASA) program.

All assignments must be completed. Not doing your work is NOT an option. Your job as a student is to learn, and in order to learn, you must do the work. No pain= no gain. Assignments must be turned in on time to receive FULL credit. I realize that some situations may be beyond your control, and if this occurs please come make arrangements with me. Please understand that a lack of planning on your part does not give you special circumstances when it comes to late work. If no arrangements have been made, the assignment will receive a 20 point deduction if it is turned in up to two weeks late. After that, it will be given half credit (50%). Late assignments will be accepted for eight weeks; no late work will be accepted during the final week of the quarter.

**ABSENCES:**

If you know you are going to be absent, please ask for your assignments as soon as you become aware of an upcoming absence. Please be courteous and do not wait until the last five minutes of class on the day before you leave to ask for your assignments. If you were absent unexpectedly, there is an area on the side table called “*While you were away*”. Please consult those folders for the day(s) missed and complete any work missed. All missing assignments, quizzes and tests must be made up as soon as possible. You will have the number of days missed plus one to make up your work for full credit. For example, if you are gone two days, you will have three days after you return to complete missing work. If you know that you will be missing a quiz or test, please be prepared to make it up as soon as you return to school.

**CLASSROOM PROCEDURES:**

* **Entering the Classroom**

When you come into the room, please check that you have all the supplies you need and be seated quickly. Quietly and immediately begin the daily warm up without having to be reminded. You will have 5 minutes to complete it in your notebook and then we will check it. These warm ups are worth 25 points per week/100 points per month.

* **Punctuality/Tardies**

You are expected to be on time to class. It is your responsibility to take care of bathroom stops and socializing during passing time and lunch. On the third-fifth tardies, you will receive detention. After that, the consequence is an office referral.

* **Hall Pass**

The hall pass is to be used only for cases of true need. In order to go to the restroom, get a drink, or go to your locker during class time, you must ask permission, be given the pass, and fill out the form attached to it. You may use it three times during a semester. If you have an emergency after that, it will cost you a lunch detention. We only have one pass per classroom, so please be considerate and limit your time out of the room to no longer than three minutes.

\***NOTE:** There is a different pass to get TO my room before /after school or at lunch. If you need to come to my room at

 those times, please make arrangements with me ahead of time, and I will give you a pass. You will not be allowed to come

 to my room without one.

* **Volume Levels:**

We are going to have fun in this class and occasionally we will get pretty noisy! The important thing to remember is that there are times when this is appropriate and times when it is not. When we play a game and we are cheering each other on, by all means, get loud! When we are testing or working independently, obviously that is not okay. I use “volume levels” to outline my expectations for the classroom noise level.

 **5- Shouting/Yelling** (Sporting Events, We are Panthers!!!)

 **4- Loud Speaking Voice** (whole group activities, asking questions, giving answers, presentations)

 **3- Medium Speaking Voice** (group work, 36 inch voice)

 **2- Soft Speaking Voice** (partner activities, 18 inch voice)

1. **Whispering** (Only talk is if it is necessary.)
2. **No talking**
* **Turning in Assignments**

All papers must have your **name, date, and hour** clearly and legibly written in the top right hand corner of the paper! If there is no name on a paper I will put it up on the “NO NAME” board behind my desk. If you want credit for an assignment you must put your name on it. If you have a missing assignment, always check the NO NAME board! If I cannot easily read your work, I will give it back to you to be re-written. Please write neatly and do your best work the *first* time. If it is a reoccurring issue and I still can’t read your handwriting, the answers will be counted wrong if I can’t read them. Unless otherwise requested, I recommend pencils for all class work.

* **Homework**

Any homework assignments or due dates will be written on the board each day. It is YOUR responsibility to read the board every day, record the assignment in your agenda, and complete the work. Homework is due when you walk in the door unless otherwise noted. Homework will most often involve a short reading assignment, a few questions to answer, or research/writing to finish.

* **Tutorials/Extra Help**

If you have questions over the material we are covering in class please come see me after school for tutorial. I am almost always available after school but if you cannot meet with me during that time, please speak with me and we will set up a time that works for both of us! Please don’t wait until the day before something is due or you have a quiz/test if you are having trouble! Come see me right away so you don’t get behind. I am happy to explain or re-teach anything you don’t understand, but please come with *specific* questions. I can’t read your mind, so let me know how I can help you!

* **Cell Phone Policy**

Unless I have given you permission to use it, your cell phone should be *turned off* and ***completely*** *out of sight*. Teachers have been instructed to send any cell phone that they hear or see to the office where a parent will have to pick it up after school.

* **Leaving the Classroom**

We do not have bells between classes at Cimarron, so the clock does not dismiss you, I do. Before anyone will be permitted to leave, I expect the whole class to be **seated and quiet**.

**CHEATING:** All of the work you turn in should be your own work. Cheating and copying answers will NOT be tolerated. Using someone else’s work or idea(s) as your own, without giving credit to that person, is deceitful and against both school rules and the law. If you have any concern about whether or not something is considered cheating, please just ask me! (Before the assignment is turned in!) If any student is caught cheating they will receive a zero for that assignment. If a student is caught cheating on a quiz or test they will receive a zero for that exam and they will be required to contact their parents to inform them of the incident.

**LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:** Every student deserves to feel safe, valued and successful in my classroom. If you have questions or concerns about anything please let me know! I will do everything in my power to make you feel important and valuable in my classroom. We will talk more in class about what is “fair” and how we will treat each other, but please remember that I will not tolerate anyone making fun of another student in my classroom. We all have different needs, but common goals, so we will all have to work together to achieve success!

**QUESTIONS:** If you have any questions about my policies, instruction, assignments or anything else, please do not hesitate to contact me! I will be happy to help you in any way I can.

**The best way to contact me is through email**. I can check it throughout the day and send a reply much more quickly than by phone! My email is robin.miller@edmondschools.net

Parents, if you need to contact me by phone, my classroom phone number is

726-5523. I have 2nd hour plan from 8:43-9:36. If I don’t answer, please leave me a message and I will return your call as soon as possible after school.

I look forward to having a great year!

Mrs. Miller

Edmodo group & code: ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­

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**I read and understood the class syllabus. If I had any questions or concerns, I asked them.**

Student \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What is the best way to contact you if I want to brag about your student or if there is a concern we need to discuss?

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Phone(s)

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Email(s)

Who should I contact first?

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In an emergency, is there another way to reach someone?

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Do you have internet access at home, either on a computer or a data plan, which could be used to do research for class, to check grades and missing assignments, or to access the free online textbook? YES NO

Do you have a computer available to type assignments? YES NO

Do you have a printer to print assignments? YES NO