

ENGLISH 8: COURSE OUTLINE



ROOM: C105

TEACHER: MR. D'ANGELO

PHONE: 604-595-8890

E-MAIL: dangelo_r@surreyschools.ca

MICROSOFT TEAM: C – ENGLISH 8

Welcome to Panorama Ridge!

Why study English?

English 8 builds upon the curricular competencies you have developed during your study of Language Arts from kindergarten through to Grade 7. This course will expose you to specific reading as well as writing strategies that will empower you not only to comprehend, but also to engage critically and creatively, with a variety of texts. Time permitting, we will explore a variety of text forms and genres, including: oral histories, short stories, short & feature films, a dystopian novel, and poetry.

Throughout the course, you will be challenged to do the following:

- Apply specific strategies to **comprehend & connect** ideas
- Think **critically** and **creatively** about the world, different perspectives, and values
- Effectively **communicate** your ideas orally as well as in writing

Big Ideas: Students will revisit the following big ideas in order to make connections between units:

- 1) *Language and text can be a source of creativity and joy.*
- 2) *Exploring stories and other texts helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world.*
- 3) *People understand text differently depending on their worldviews and perspectives.*
- 4) *Texts are socially, culturally, and historically constructed.*
- 5) *Questioning what we hear, read, and view contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens.*

Expectations:

Classroom Conduct: (Three Rs)

- Respect learning and effort
- Respect yourself and others
- Respect your class and school community

Food/Drink:

- Students may bring **water** to class
- Food/snacks must be consumed on breaks.

Technology:

- Allowed at teacher's discretion

Late Assignments:

Every lesson, activity, or assignment you complete **builds upon** previous work.

Therefore, it is crucial that you submit your work on time.

If you feel you will be unable to meet a due date, see me to discuss an alternative date **before** the assignment is due (not after).

Together, we will develop a strategy to help you succeed.

If you are away, it is your responsibility to check the class team to find out what you've missed.

Lates & Absences

Since every lesson will build upon the previous day's discussions, it is **very** important to attend class regularly and on-time. Occasionally, something comes up and we are late. However, chronic (**consistent**) lates/absences are problematic and will result in the following:

- *A conference with me.* Together, we will identify how I can support your attendance
- *A conference with parents.* I will review our in-class strategy and discuss how we can work together to support your attendance.
- *A conference with support staff.* If there is no improvement, I will work with the school administration and/or school support workers to create a learning contract.

Intellectual Honesty:

Copying text/materials/graphics and/or ideas from another **student**, from **published sources**, and/or from the **internet** without proper citation is not permitted and is called plagiarism. Acts of plagiarism will result in a make-up assignment and/or a conversation with parents and administration.

Assessment:

Most of the learning activities in this course are **formative**. This means that you will receive detailed **feedback** during discussions, warm-ups, minor assignments, and other types of informal check-ins. This feedback will help prepare you for **summative** assessments (that count for grades). Your grade will be based on a combination of assignments that correspond to the following **curricular competencies**:

Comprehending and Connecting:

- Text analysis, comprehension questions/quizzes, etc
- Active reading, quick writes, journaling, reflections

Creating:

- Projects, mind-maps, infographics, one-pagers, comic strips, videos, and / or any other assignments that use combinations of writing and/or multi-media to communicate understanding and/or connection

Communicating:

- Class discussions, speeches, presentations; writing well-organized and focused paragraphs, essays, and original compositions.

Reflection on Learning

- Towards the end of the year, you will be complete a reflection on what you have learned in the course. This reflection will serve as the basis for a final conference about the grade & work habit you feel best reflects your engagement with the course.

Starting this year, students in grades 8 and 9 will no longer receive letter grades on their report cards. Instead, learning will be communicated using the provincial proficiency scale.

Emerging (EM)		Developing (DE)		Proficient (PR)		Extending (EX)	
-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+