



READ. THINK LISTEN. Speak. Write.

Welcome to 8th Grade Honors English!

Ms. Gobetz

bgobetz@3villagecsd.org

Welcome to your second year at Murphy Junior High School! This is your first year as an upperclassman. As an eighth grader, you have great potential to make a difference in this school, for this year marks your rise to the role of leader and role-model for the students in the grade below you. For this reason, much of our curriculum this year will center on the power to make a difference and contemplation of the injustices in our present and past. We will explore the genres of poetry, non-fiction, fiction, drama, short story, and personal narrative. You will take on the role of researcher as you dive into multicultural literature and begin to understand how attitude, perseverance, and the willingness to stand up for what you believe in can change our future. You will learn about yourself and the world around you through process journal writing, in which we will draft, revise, re-revise, edit, and publish, and you will develop skills in informational, argumentative, narrative, and creative writing. At the same time, you will consider and expand your knowledge of vocabulary, grammar, and punctuation in context. Throughout this year, you will take on the role of an experienced scholar with the ability to control your own growth and development. Together, we will strive to become better readers, writers, speakers, thinkers, and listeners, but most importantly, we will strive to become more compassionate and understanding individuals.

Studied Literature May Include:

Mirrors and Windows (Class Textbook)

- “Thank You, Ma’am,” Langston Hughes
- “Flowers for Algernon,” Daniel Keyes
- “All Summer in a Day,” Ray Bradbury
- “The Tell-Tale Heart,” Edgar Allan Poe
- “The Raven,” Edgar Allan Poe
- Selected poetry and non-fiction

The Diary of Anne Frank, Anne Frank

Night, Eli Wiesel

Eyes Wide Open, Paul Fleischman

The Narrative Life of Frederick Douglass, Frederick Douglass

The Pearl, John Steinbeck

A Midsummer Night’s Dream, William Shakespeare

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, Washington Irving

The House on Mango Street, Sandra Cisneros



Class Materials

~~ 1 one-inch binder (or *clearly separated section* of a multi-subject binder) ~~

~~ Lined loose leaf paper ~~

~~ Pens and #2 pencils ~~

~~ 3 highlighters ~~

Departmental Grading Policy

Summative Assessments: 40%

- May include: Tests, Writing Assignments, Projects, Presentations, etc.

Formative Assessments: 50%

- May include: Quizzes, Reading Checks, Journals, Drafts, Outlines, Peer Responses, Participation, Classwork, Text-based Questions, etc.

Homework: 10%

- May include: Chapter Reading Questions, Vocabulary, Annotations, Reader Response Questions/Prompts, Reflections, Anticipation Guides, etc.

**No grade will count for more than 20% of a single quarter GPA.
Quarters themselves will each count for 20% of a student's final grade,
with the final exam making up the final 20%.**

** The purpose of formative assessment is to monitor student learning
and provide ongoing feedback to help students identify their strengths and weaknesses.
In doing so, students can improve their skills over time to be better prepared for the summative
assessment.**

** The goal of summative assessment is to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional
unit against a rubric.**

Honors Maintenance Criteria

For honors English, you will need to maintain an average grade of a *90 or higher*. This means that each quarter, your grade should be a 90 or above, but it *DOES NOT* mean that a single quiz or test grade below this benchmark will lead to you being dropped out of honors. It is your overall progress and growth on which you should focus.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

The Murphy Junior High School English Department has a strict policy regarding plagiarism. Students are expected to produce original work for all assignments and to use MLA style to credit all sources cited in their writing. Recycling your own work, copying other

students' work, and copying online material are all forms of plagiarism.

Consequences may include reduction in grade, re-writing the assignment, or other outcomes as deemed appropriate. Academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students and a parent/guardian will be notified. Please refer to the Board of Education policy regarding plagiarism.

Late Work Policy

This year, you will be asked to submit most work through Google Classroom. Each assignment will have a pre-assigned due date that you will be able to clearly see both within the assignment details on Google Classroom, as well as on the Parent Portal.

The grade for work that is submitted late will be reduced five points for each day that it is late, up to a maximum of a 20 point deduction from points earned. A note on I-Campus: An "M" entered in I-Campus denotes that the assignment has not been received by the due date. I-Campus automatically averages an M as a zero. Consider the M a placeholder, and a warning that, should that assignment not be turned-in, the quarter grade will be negatively impacted.

Students who miss a test or quiz due to an excused absence are required to make up the assessment in the Testing Center. Students/parents should contact the teacher if they experience circumstances that prevent them from meeting the course's expectations.

Homework Lateness Policy

There is a moderate amount of written homework in English. It is always relevant to the lesson and will be checked for completion and reviewed at the beginning of the next day's class. As such, it is in the best interest of the student to make every effort to complete the homework in a timely manner. Homework that is neat, complete, and mostly accurate will receive full credit. Homework that is not completed on time may be made up for half credit. Homework that is missed due to absence may be made up for full credit.

Most importantly, though, remember that *ALL* late work is accepted. It will NEVER hurt your grade to turn in work. Unsubmitted work receives a 0. Late work receives a grade, even if points are deducted.

Chromebook Policy

Chromebooks are an excellent resource, which we will be using almost everyday. Therefore, the expectation is:

1. ... You bring your Chromebook to school **everyday**.
2. ... It is ***charged enough for use***.
3. ... You ***bring the charger***.
4. ... You have only ***class-specific tabs*** open.
5. ... You bring ***headphones*** that work with your device.

For full participation credit each day, you must follow these guidelines.

Questions or Concerns?

Please know that my main concern is that I am able to help you achieve all that you want to do this year, personally and academically, and that you feel comfortable and confident in asking for help to do so. If you ever have a question or are struggling to meet a due date while at home, sick, or away, please feel free to email me at bgobetz@3villagecsd.org or communicate with me through the private comments on Google Classroom. To do this most effectively, I advise downloading the Google Classroom App for assignment, due date, and comment notifications from me. I recognize that events happen in our lives that sometimes make getting work in difficult. I am *always* open to hear your concerns!

Extra Help

If you miss a class due to absence, music lessons, or sickness, please know that it is your responsibility to check in with me in order to get what you missed. I would love to meet with you for extra help in order to do this or to provide an opportunity for you to ask additional questions even if you were present in class. Upon your request, I offer **extra help before school** in our classroom (room 201) and can also arrange for Google Meet extra help sessions at other times of the day. Please know that I will always work with you to arrange an appointment that fits into your schedule.

As a final note, please be mindful of **Google Classroom announcements** advertising optional extra help sessions before tests, quizzes, and major assignment due dates.

Classroom Rules

Ms. Gobetz — English 8H

Cell Phone Policy

As you most likely know, our school district has a policy in which cell phones are allowed in class only at the discretion of the teacher. As we will be using Chromebooks with internet access daily in this classroom, you should not have any need for your cell phone. Therefore, please keep phones in your backpack and out of sight *at all times*. Even if you are not using it, having your phone on your desk may be tempting or distracting to you and others if it buzzes or rings. For more information regarding our school cell phone policy, please refer to the Code of Conduct on the school website, and, of course, please let me know if you have any extenuating circumstances or specific concerns.



Additional Expectations

1. Respect is the number one rule. You should be respectful of your peers, your teacher, and yourself at all times. This means treating those around you as you would want to be treated, keeping unnecessary or hurtful comments to yourself, and listening to all instructions and comments of your teacher and your peers.

2. Be prepared. Make sure to bring all necessary materials to class (**especially your CHARGED Chromebook**) so that you can get the most out of our limited time together.
3. Be on time. You should be inside or walking into the classroom when the bell rings. Lateness will disrupt your peers and your own learning and could result in detention.
4. Food and drink: Water is always permitted in class, but food this year will not be permitted due to health and safety precautions. If you truly need to eat, though, please come and talk to me privately.
5. Chromebooks are allowed for **academic purposes ONLY**. Using YouTube, social media, or playing a game during class time will prevent you from paying attention; therefore, GoGuardian will be monitoring and recording all Chromebook activity throughout the lesson.
6. Make the most of your time in class. Although extra help will be offered regularly, we only have a limited amount of time together. Please use that time to your own benefit, so that you can learn as much as possible and have what everyone here at Murphy hopes will be a successful, inspiring, and fun second year of junior high school.

If you or your parents have any questions or concerns about these rules or about anything throughout the year, please feel free to reach out to me at bgobetz@3villagecsd.org. I am always available to talk via email, the phone, or in person. I'm looking forward to a great year, and I hope you are as well!

PLEASE RETURN TO MS. GOBETZ BY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th

Using Kami, please sign below.

I have read the description and requirements for Ms. Gobetz's 8H English class, and I agree to follow the guidelines listed above.

Student's Name _____ Date _____ Parent

/ Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

