



Mrs. Liolli's Expectations and Guidelines for 8th Grade Language Arts

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Welcome to 8th grade Language Arts. I am looking forward to a productive and successful school year. To have such a year, you are expected to be an active participant in class. You will work independently, as well as work as a member of cooperative groups.

What is this class all about?

We will focus developing our grammar and writing skills. Some units that we will be covering throughout the year are: Short stories, book reports, Invitation to the Game novel, Outsiders novel, Anne Frank Unit, persuasive writing and much more!

One major project this year will be writing a research paper. This will be a step-by-step approach and will conclude with an oral presentation. We will be preparing to take the reading/writing portion of the MEAP and the ACT Explore test. You will also be required to do Daily Oral Language (DOL), grammar lessons and writing prompts continuously throughout the year. Some of the Essential Questions we will cover this year are: How do stories help us to identify and sort through conflict? What survival skills do you need to survive when society totally breaks down? Why is doing the right thing a difficult choice? These are just a few of the Big Idea questions we will be answering throughout the year while reading.

Website/Blog

Check out <http://mrsliolli.edublogs.org> This website will keep you updated on assignments, due dates, projects, tests, and quizzes. It will also have reminders of deadlines and important happenings around JMS. This will also be used for great discussions between the students and myself about certain stories and lessons throughout the school year.

Supplies

Here is a list of what you need to be successful in language arts:

- language arts folder
- loose leaf paper
- pencils, pencils, pencils!
- eraser
- markers/colored pencils for assignments and projects

Power School and Progress Reports

JMS has an online grading program called Power School. Parents will be able to check their child's grades anytime online. **So you will not be getting weekly progress reports this year.**

Grading

Grading is based on: - 30% - classwork, writing prompts, grammar work and DOL
-70% - test scores, quizzes, projects, papers/reports

You are also graded on spelling, writing, grammar, vocabulary and communication. This is what we call **The Power of 10**. 10 additional points are added to the value of some assignments. You will know which ones ahead of time.

Late Work

- All required work **must** be handed in on the day it is due. If you fail to turn in your assignment on the original due date, you have the option of turning it in late on the following day with 5 pts. taken off the assignment. Anything later than 2 day will be accepted, but more points will be taken off. The later the assignment is the more points are subtracted off the score of the assignment.
- **I will accept work up to three days before the end of card marking. There is NO excuse to not do your work!**

Absent Work

Please make it your responsibility to find out what you have missed when you are absent. Come see me before school, after school or during T2R announcement time. Missing work will be accepted according to how many days you have missed. Work that was due the day will be due the next day that you return to class. All required work to be handed in must be handed in on the day it is due. No exceptions without teacher approval will be permitted.

Hall Passes

Each student is given 3 "hall passes" at the beginning of each quarter. These passes can be used to get a drink, go to the bathroom, go to their lockers, etc. My goal is to have the students in the room prepared. I can't teach them if they are not here 😊. If a student is called out of the room (counseling pass) this does not count against them.

In order to have a productive learning environment, I have the following expectations: (These go hand in hand with our **JMS STARR** program)

- **BE RESPONSIBLE:** Please come to class prepared to work. When class starts, everyone should be in their proper seat ready to go with the proper materials!
- **BE RESPECTFUL:** Please remain respectful to **all students and teachers at all times.** This means that name calling, negative or profane language will not be tolerated. Also, when someone else is speaking, please show the consideration of not talking. We want to maintain a positive classroom atmosphere with positive thinking. School property and personal belongings should never be abused.
- **BE READY:** Be prepared to participate. Success comes with the sharing of ideas and participation. This helps to clarify your understanding of concepts.

I expect everyone to give me 100% EFFORT! I understand some of you will do well on some assignments and others will find them more difficult. All that I ask is that you TRY!

I believe these are reasonable expectations. I also believe that by making my expectations known to you, we will be able to work cooperatively. If you have any reasonable expectations of me, please let me know. I am willing to offer any extra help that is needed. Please let me know that you need help before you get too far behind.