

8th Grade Language Arts with Mr. Mulhern
Global Arts Plus-Upper Campus 2022-23

Hello all! This is my fourth year at Global Arts Plus, and my eleventh as a classroom teacher. Last year was certainly eventful, and I'm happy to be back to work with this awesome team. Previously, I taught for five years at Art & Science Academy in Isanti, where I was a founding teacher. Like Global Arts, our school followed the arts integration model as well. Global Arts Plus follows the middle school model, laid out by SPPS below:

'Saint Paul Public Schools is committed to providing a successful middle school model that supports students during a key transition time in their lives. We believe that our young adolescents deserve a middle school experience that is developmentally responsive, challenging, empowering and equitable...In the middle school model, teachers in core subject areas collaborate as a team to meet the social-emotional and academic needs of a common group of students and includes:

- Grades 6-8
- Student-centered teaching
- Seven periods with electives, and a Foundations Advisory class'

Class Expectations and rules:

*Students should come prepared to learn, listen and have productive discussions each day.

*Students will be expected to read and engage with new texts, develop reading stamina and work on improving fluency, think creatively and critically, and practice conventions of grammar.

*There will be no tolerance of put-downs, negative talk or exclusion. Our class will be an inclusive and safe space for all 8th graders, one where students can take risks and make mistakes without worrying about the result.

*Students will always be expected to take care of classroom materials.

*Charged iPad. Every. Day.

Grading Policy/Homework

*We will follow the typical grading scale (93-100% = A, 90-92% =A-, 83-89% =B, etc.).

*Students may turn in work up to two weeks after an assignment's due date to receive credit. An assignment that is not turned in will be graded as incomplete.

*Their typical grade will be 60% summative work (projects, quizzes, tests, writing assignments and 40% formative work (daily work and homework).

*Students should be reading at home. **It will be my responsibility to find and suggest ways for students to have access to texts during distance learning!**

Course Policies

*Absences: It is the student's responsibility to make up work they missed due to absences and complete it in a timely fashion.

*Tardies: We will follow the building policy of tardies. They are expected to use the restroom during passing time.

*Passes: Students will not be permitted to leave the classroom without a pass.

*Cell phones are not permitted in class or during instruction unless otherwise noted.

*iPads and other technology are property of Global Arts Plus and must be treated as such. If students are not utilizing the technology responsibly, they may lose technology privileges.

*Students may be allowed to check out books from the class library for a set period of time.

Materials

Students should bring the following to class:

- *CHARGED iPad
- *Binder/class notebook
- *Pencils or pens
- *Independent reading book(s)

8th Grade Language Arts Basic Trajectory and Assessments

Quarter 1:

**Textual Lineage*: What is a timeline of our own personal reading history, and how can we expand going forward?

**Memoir Writing*: What is something compelling that has happened in our lives and how can we present it as a story?

Quarter 2:

**Nonfiction Study*: How can we suspend judgment on an issue as we research, weigh and evaluate ideas and information presented across texts, and carefully consider the strength of arguments?

**Infographic and TED Talk*: How can we use research to assist us in preparing, presenting and making our points?

Quarter 3:

**Dystopian Book Club*: How do we avoid the mistakes of the past to help create a better tomorrow?

**Literary Essay*: What can novels and stories teach us about the world and ourselves?

Quarter 4:

**Poetry and Close Reading*: How can we read a text closely to determine its meaning and a character's point of view?

**Investigative Journalism*: What are the ways that journalism can be used as a tool for change?

Readers/Writers Workshop Model

St. Paul Public Schools and Global Arts Academy uses the Readers and Writers Workshop model.

A typical day in ELA class:

5 minutes - opening activity (vocabulary, grammar, writing prompt)

10 minutes - 'mini lesson'

20-25 minutes - group or independent work

3-5 minutes - wrap up activity and clean up

Please let me know if you have any questions, comments or concerns. Let's have a good year!

-Ben Mulhern

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