ELA Workshop 8

Mr. Ellickson
ROOM 2315

Contact Information:
Capitol Hill Phone: (651) 325-2500
Email: aaron.ellickson@spps.org
Capitol Hill Website: capitolhill.spps.org
Twitter: @mrellickson

General Course Description:

“We write to discover what we think.”

~William Zinsser

The eighth grade ELA workshop curriculum is a combination of Reader’s and Writer’s Workshop with focus on the national Common Core standards to guide instruction. Student will use challenging books of their choice within the Reader’s Workshop model to achieve and go beyond standards. Students will write using the tools and skills they’ve learned in class and from their text. Students also spend time with longer pieces of fiction in reading Night by Elie Wiesel and Kaffir Boy by Mark Mathabane. Discussion is emphasized and students are expected to generate and share meaning and understanding based on textual evidence.

Learning Materials Needed Daily:

1. Notebook
2. Several pencils and a pen
3. A novel of your choice at home and in class
4. A folder or 3 ring binder

Success in this class for every student is a priority. Please remember that communication is an essential factor in all we do and therefore, do not ever hesitate to address me—especially because together, we can work at making anything possible.

All students are expected to follow the Capitol Hill Behavior policy (PBIS)

Cougar RoaRS

We are Respectful
We are Responsible
We are Safe
ELA Workshop 8 Unit Information:

**Planned Units of Study**

ELA Readers Workshop Launch

Analytical Reading Across Generes: Themes, Archetypes, and Allusions

Critical Nonfiction Reading Across Texts: *Night* and *Kaffir Boy*

Investigative Journalism

Native American Literature

Position Paper

Fantasy and Dystopian Book Clubs

Literary Essay

Character Analysis

Other areas of content as the need arises and time allows

**Content-based Instructional Practices:**

*Disciplinary Literacy* (modeling, guiding questions, standards-based, scaffolded instruction, pair-share, readers’/writers’ workshop)

*Principles of Learning* (organizing for effort, clear expectations, accountable talk, academic rigor, socializing intelligence, fair and credible evaluations, learning as apprenticeship)

*Inquiry-based instructional units*: Students are encouraged to make connections to the text with evidentiary statements to back up opinions (Accountable Talk)

*Embedded and specific vocabulary instruction*

*Process approach to writing* (drafting, revising, editing, publishing) embedded in each unit including both informal and formal writing and the use of writers’ notebooks.

*Standards of Effective Teaching*

**Assessments (on-going, formative and summative):**

Formative: readers’/writers’ notebooks, engaged reading quick-writes, entrance-exit slips, peer group reviews, quizzes, etc.

Summative: Student/Teacher conferencing, informative writing, narrative writing, identification of elements of argument, etc.