

Welcome to
8th grade English



Thank you for taking an active role in your child's education! Our partnership throughout this year will be instrumental in ensuring success for each member of the 8th grade class. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to know and teach your child as he or she prepares for high school. I pledge my greatest effort every day in the classroom to help each student reach full potential.

This year in English we will focus on writing; specifically narrative, persuasive and research writing. Please don't be alarmed if you don't see much writing coming home. Research proves that guided work in class is the most effective method for instructing and assessing student writing. Along the way, students will develop vocabulary and convention skills through daily drills and application exercises. The end of the year will provide an opportunity to learn and practice public speaking skills. I post our lesson plans and homework on the message center on the school website. The English department follows a set of "Common Core Standards" for each grade level. These standards are posted on the Illinois State Board of Education website. Grades will be divided into two categories: 20% formative assessments (homework/class work, quizzes), 80% formal assessments (tests, papers).

I wish to emphasize once again how important parent involvement is for educational success. Email is the best way to communicate with me directly and promptly. You can also reach me by calling the office. Please contact me with any questions or concerns. I will reply as quickly as time allows. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Shari Halsmer

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