

Class of 2022

ENGLISH CLASS

8th Grade Edition, 2017-2018

Welcome!

... to eighth grade! Get ready for a challenging but awesome year. I am so excited to get to know you and to help you grow as a reader, writer, editor, and speaker, as well as to prepare you for high school and your life beyond education.

Bring to Class

- English Binder
- Independent reading book (at all times!)
- Pen (blue/black ink) or pencil
- Highlighter
- Loose-leaf paper

Curriculum

Writing (CCSS W8.1-W8.10)

- Expository/Research
- Argumentative
- Narrative

} Writing Process

Grammar (CCSS L8.1-L8.3)

Vocabulary (CCSS L8.4-L8.6)

- Greek and Latin Roots
- Words in context
- Grade/domain- specific

Speaking and Listening

(CCSS SL8.1- SL8.6)

- Incorporated into writing units

Grade Breakdown

- ✓ 80% Formal Assessments
 - major writing projects
 - speeches
 - tests
- ✓ 20% Informal Practice
 - assignments
 - bell ringer journal
 - progress checkpoints

Class Rules:

1. **Listen** to the teacher, and ignore others who try to distract you!
2. **Follow directions.** ☺
3. **Keep a positive attitude.** Don't judge a person, book, or assignment too soon.
4. **Paper assignments are due in the first 5 minutes of class**
5. **Electronic assignments are due at 8:00AM on the due date.** See me with questions.
6. **Be proactive.** Plan ahead. Do not assume you will get an extension if you ask for one.
7. **Be prepared.** Bring everything you will need for class. I do not sign passes for items you forgot.
8. **Ask for help.** I can't help you if you are silent when confused!
9. **Be respectful.** Please do not have side conversations.

Using Technology:

We will use the following websites/software regularly on school devices:

- Quizlet
 - Google Apps (Classroom, Docs, Slides, and Drive)
 - Perdue Owl
 - Remind
- ✓ I may ask you to bring your phone or tablet to class for use with a lesson. You will need to return the device to your locker prior to your next class. "I forgot" is not an excuse when caught with your device without teacher permission.
- ✓ Remember to follow school policies for technology use and to keep track of your own usernames and passwords! If you forget your login, I might not be able to help!

Your Binder

I will assist you with organizing your binder during the beginning weeks of school. You need tab dividers to organize your English handouts and notes.

Your binder must be brought to class each day.

Getting Help

There's more than one way!

1. **Before school:** You may come to my classroom (201) anytime after 7:30 AM.
2. **During school:** English class, study hall, and lunch (lunch must be scheduled).
3. **After School:** I am available after school for an hour. *This may vary due to meetings.
4. **Email:** Email me before 4:30 PM.

FAQ's

Q: Can I throw this paper out?

A: NO! You never know if you'll need that paper for a midterm, final exam, high school, or report card. Ask me before you throw ANYTHING away.

Q: Do we have homework tonight?

A: Refer to the agenda board, the weekly lesson plans posted on the classroom door, and/or view weekly plans posted in Skyward on the 'home' page. Also, download the Remind App for test reminders and paper due dates.

Q: What if I disagree with, or have a question about, one of my grades?

A: The BEST option is to chat with me in person, when we can BOTH look at an assignment and discuss it. If necessary, you are welcome to send me a detailed email about the concern.

Contact Ms. Hofmeister at:
khofmeister@mail.meridian223.org

Please understand that I will respond as soon as I am able to review the grade in question.

Ms. Hofmeister

Absence Policy

If you miss a class for any reason, here's what to do:

- Check SKYWARD for the day's plan, assignment, and/or handouts. All are posted as PDFs and can be printed.
- When you return, you will pick up any necessary hard copies of papers that you need from the absent file located near the door in the classroom. I will chat with you about when to make up any missed test(s).
- Turn in any projects or assignments that were due on the day(s) you were absent.
- Do not rely on friends. They might forget important details.
- Be prepared to take a missed test ASAP. You are not guaranteed extra days to study if you are absent the day of a test.

Emergency Day Policy

If there's a chance we will have an emergency day (Ex. snow day), please take home all the school supplies you will possibly need to do work at home. Not having a paper or book will not be grounds for an extension on a due date.

If we have an emergency day, then we will resume our planned due dates as quickly as possible.

For example, if we were supposed to take a test on the cancelled day, then it will happen on the next possible school day. If an assignment was due on the cancelled day, then it will be due the next possible school day.

For example, if we cancel school on Tuesday, anything scheduled for Tuesday is now scheduled for Wednesday. (If we miss Friday, it's scheduled for Monday.)

If we have a snow day on the day before a bi-weekly test (vocabulary/grammar) or due date, then the normal test or due date will still happen on the originally scheduled date.

Assessments will not be pushed back for extra study or homework time!

**REMIND App**

I use the remind app to inform students (and parents) of tests and due dates for large writing projects. I will assist students with downloading the app during the first days of school. I will also share with parents, through SKYWARD, the code needed to access my classes.

The following codes have been established:

- Period 1 - b366e9e
- Period 2 - 6h6k
- Period 4 - af4h7k
- Period 5 - bg6998
- Period 6 - 37c66h
- Period 9 - fd8ek4



I use the app for announcements only. If you have questions, please see me in person or contact me through email.

Document Formatting

Anytime you are submitting a hand-written assignment, review your paper to check that you followed the following format.

- First and last name in the upper right corner.
- Class period written below your full name in the top right corner.
- Class number for English class in the top left corner. Please write the number to the left of the red margin line.

When typing a writing project, you will follow MLA formatting. This will be discussed prior to the first writing project.

Retake PolicyRequest to Retest

Not everyone does their best the first time. Often other factors impact our performance, such as illness, lack of study time, and stress. That is why school policy allows you to retake a test if you believe you can do better. I strongly encourage everyone to take advantage of the opportunity. It does not matter what your original grade was, EVERYONE is given the opportunity to retake a test. I do require you to complete a "Request to Retest" form which makes you reflect on your grade and plan what you will do to improve your score. A parent signature is required.

Retakes will take place on Fridays during study hall. If you participate in band, you need to schedule your retake with me personally. If you have an excused absence the day of the retake, you must complete the retake the day you return to school.

Z.A.P. (Zeros Aren't Permitted)

Missing assignments that result in zeros in the grade book only assess your behavior, not your knowledge. For that reason, zeros are not accepted. If you did not complete an assignment, you must fill out an Z.A.P. Oops! form and attach it to your late assignment.. **I do NOT take points off your grade for late assignments, but do require you to be accountable and complete the assignment.** If you do not complete an assignment within the week it is due, you will be ZAP-ed and required to eat lunch in my classroom while you complete the assignment.

"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

- Chinese Proverb