

Teacher: Mrs. Danielle Curfman    E-mail: dncurfman@wcpss.net    Website: curfman18-19.weebly.com

**Language Arts Course Description:** In eighth grade ELA, students focus on the development of skills in vocabulary, grammar, and multiple genres of writing because these are the basic building blocks that allow access to complex text and clear, concise expression of ideas and insights. The ability to read, speak, and write in Standard English will open doors throughout the remainder of the educational process as well as in a chosen career path. The structure of this course is broken down into 9-week modules (one module every quarter). Within each module is a three-week unit. Students can expect an assessment at the end of each three-week unit. Students will receive a workbook for each module, and will do the majority of their classwork inside of this workbook.

**Module 1. Finding Home: Refugees**

Central Text: *Inside Out and Back Again*, Thanhha Lai

**Module 2. The Comedy of Control**

Central Text: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, William Shakespeare

**Module 3. Civil Rights Movement & the Little Rock Nine**

Central Text: *A Mighty Long Way*, Carlotta Walls Lanier

**Module 4. Sustainability of World's Food Supply**

Central Text: *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, YR Edition, Michael Pollan

\*ELA novels and workbooks are provided by WCPSS.

**Social Studies Course Description:** Students in eighth grade will build on the fourth and fifth grade introductions to North Carolina and the U.S. by embarking on a more rigorous study of the historical foundations and democratic principles that continue to shape our state and nation. The main focus of the course is the critical events, personalities, issues, and developments in the state and nation from the Revolutionary Era to contemporary times. Inherent in this study is an analysis of the relationship of geography, events, and diverse groups of people to the political, economic, technological, and cultural developments that shaped our existence in North Carolina and the United States over time.

**Unit 1. Pre-Colonial / Colonial Era**

**Unit 2. Revolution & New Republic**

**Unit 3. Westward Expansion & Antebellum Period**

**Unit 4. Divided Nation, War, & Reconstruction**

**Unit 5. Industry, Immigrants, & Progressives**

**Unit 6. WWI, 20's, Great Depression**

**Unit 7. WWII & Aftermath**

**Unit 8. Cold War, Civil Rights, Modern Times**

Recommended Supplemental Reading: *Everything You Need to Know About American History in One Big Fat Notebook*

**Materials:** All students are expected to arrive in class with all required materials. It is unacceptable to come to class unprepared or to expect to borrow materials from classmates or the teacher. The full list of required materials is available on the website. **In addition, a student agenda, assigned reading materials, homework, in-class assignments, and an independent reading book are all required for class daily. No exceptions.**

**Assessments and Grading:** Eighth grade classes honor the grading plan posted on the school website. Each ELA module and social studies unit will include at least one major assessment. Major assessments may include tests, projects, and/or writing assignments. Students will be given quizzes, short writing assignments, classwork, and homework assignments to enrich understanding of skills taught throughout the unit. Classwork and homework will be graded for completion and accuracy. Homework will be assigned every night, and the five assignments will be checked each day and combined for one weekly homework grade at the end of the week.

***LRMS Grading Categories:***

Test/Project: 50

Quiz: 25

Classwork: 15

Homework: 10

Homework and classwork: 10 point deduction for each day late. Work submitted **later than 5 days past the due date will not be accepted**. Graded tests and quizzes remain in an individual student file in the classroom after reviewing them in class.

***LRMS Grading Scale:***

A= 90-100

C= 70-79

D= 60-69

B= 80-89

F= 59 and below

***Classroom Expectations and Procedures***

1. Each student is expected to arrive on time, come into the classroom in an orderly manner, and sit in his or her assigned seat.
2. Each student is expected to be prepared for class by bringing all materials to class.
3. Each student is expected to be respectful toward the teacher and classmates.
4. Each student is expected to be on task at all times.
5. Students should not have gum in the classroom.

**B**

*Be respectful*

**O**

*Own your actions*

**L**

*Learning comes first*

**T**

*Think about safety*

***Consequences***

1. Verbal Warning
2. Silent Lunch
3. Contact Parent/Guardian
4. Choices
5. Disciplinary Referral

***Bathroom/Water***

Students are expected to get water and use the restroom during passing periods. Classroom activities fill the entire allotted instructional period. Students will be given an "Out the Door" pass for when they need to leave the room. It will give them 20 times per semester (core classes) to leave the room.

**Policies for electronic devices, emergency procedures, and make-up work can be found in the Student Handbook.**

Please remember that eighth grade is a time of preparation for the next stage of the academic path; high school. Please be aware that eighth grade teachers make high school recommendations in early spring for ninth grade

*Grade 8, Track 3 ~ Language Arts and Social Studies ~ Lufkin Road Middle School ~ 2018-2019*

English coursework. **Honors recommendations will be based upon the following factors:** academic performance throughout the year (scores of 90 or higher on all tests and A/B average each quarter); thorough and thoughtful completion of all assignments including homework; the individual level of responsibility and willingness of the student to assume responsibility for his/her own learning; the student's ability to meet established deadlines; and behaviors appropriate for rising high school students.

Please sign the portion below to show acknowledgement to this year's expectations. Return to Mrs. Curfman no later than **Friday, July 13**.

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Student name:

\_\_\_\_\_ (printed) \_\_\_\_\_ (signature)

Parent/Guardian name:

\_\_\_\_\_ (printed) \_\_\_\_\_ (signature)