

Ms. Park's 8th grade ELA Class Syllabus

2015-2016

Welcome to Ms. Park's Language Arts class at Mendez Fundamental! I am so excited to have the wonderful opportunity to teach you this year. I believe that every student in this class can reach his or her academic goals through diligence, dedication, and participation. I hope to create a positive learning environment where creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication are demonstrated on a daily basis. Over the course of the year, we will be learning and applying skills that matter to our lives. We will use analytical skills to explore literary works and examine informational texts that teach us about the world we live in. We will expand our vocabulary, sharpen our grammar, and work towards becoming effective writers. We will also use technology to enhance our learning. Each skill you gain and apply in this class will help prepare you towards high school and college readiness. I look forward to a great year of learning!

My curriculum and goals adhere to the mandated **COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS** <http://www.corestandards.org/read-the-standards/>

EXPECTATIONS

I have exceptionally high expectations. I expect all students to be colleagues, curators, decision-makers, active participants, experts, and global thinkers.

CLASS RULES

You will be responsible for composing a list of expectations with your peers. A comprehensive list of expectations will be decided upon, approved, and enacted by you and your classmates! Be prepared to sign a contract pledging your commitment to those expectations.

ASSERTIVE DISCIPLINE PLAN

- **1st warning** - name written on Warnings board
- **2nd time** - check next to your name on board - 15-minute detention
- **3rd time** - two checks next to your name - 30-minute detention/notify parent
- **Consistent misbehavior** - referral to a counselor or administrator

READING

You are expected to meet your reading goals through literature circles and reading logs. You must have your novel with you at all times and reading logs will be collected periodically. Reading materials in this course include articles, short stories, informational texts, and novels.

WRITING

You will be writing ten formal essays in the following genres: argumentative, explanatory/informational, and narrative. All essays will be written/revised on google classroom and submitted electronically through Canvas. You will also write informally by maintaining a journal/blog on Weebly and completing TBQs on Canvas.

GRAMMAR

You will learn grammar in context and from peer groups. Grammar units are aligned to the Holt Handbook, but you will not learn from that book. Grammar will be learned through projects!

VOCABULARY

You will complete 18 lessons on Greek/Latin word parts (roots, prefixes, and suffixes). For each lesson, you are required to complete notecards and a practice assignments through Canvas.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology is an important aspect of my ELA curriculum. You will be using technology about 60% of the time in the classroom. Mendez Fundamental incorporates a Bring Your Own Device policy (ipads, ipods, laptops, and phones) for certain lessons and activities. Furthermore, each of you is strongly encouraged to check out a Chromebook. You are permitted to use these devices ONLY when I say so. At all other times, these devices must be turned off and put away inside backpacks. When I or any adult is speaking, Chromebooks must be closed at a 45 degree angle. Access to the Internet at home is strongly encouraged, as you will be working on and turning in assignments that are web-dependent. You will be using Weebly, Canvas, and google classroom on a daily basis. I will post announcements through instagram, twitter, and Canvas Calendar. Yes, we will be using ALL of those resources. You MUST seek parental approval before accessing any of these sites (particularly instagram and twitter). You are allowed to email me with any questions about schoolwork. All emails are checked and responded to at 6pm every day.

www.LearnPark.weebly.com

www.twitter.com/LearnPark

www.instagram.com/LearnPark

Canvas Instructure (Student login required)

Google Classroom (Student login required)

GRADES AND GRADING

Grades are calculated according to points earned on **classwork or homework** assignments (portfolios, packets, journals, reading logs, TBQs, etc) and **assessments** (projects, quizzes, exams, oral presentations).

- Homework & Classwork – 30% of the overall grade
- Assessments – 70% of the overall grade

GRADING SCALE

A = 100–90% B = 89–80% C = 79–70% D = 69–60% F = 59–0%

You are responsible for checking “Aeries” on a weekly basis.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late assignments will NOT be accepted unless there is an excused absence. You will be informed of all assignment due dates and it is your responsibility to turn them in on time.

ABSENCES

If you are absent, it is your responsibility for making up all missed work, especially assessments. Please check the class website and instagram/twitter for updated information on class work. Any assignments that were given before the absence are due upon your return to school.

CITIZENSHIP

Points may be added for positive behaviors such as participation, kindness to others, and cooperation. Points may be subtracted for tardiness, cheating or forging of work, misbehaving for a substitute, being unprepared for class, talking out of turn, being disrespectful, and more.

FOOD AND DRINK

You may drink bottled water in class. You may not eat food or chew gum in class. If you have candy that you received from another teacher or me, you must first ask permission before enjoying it.

OFFICE HOURS: Review Sessions + Tutoring

Students who seek additional help or who need to make up an exam may **schedule an appointment** for Tuesdays or Thursdays after school (2:40 – 3:40pm) or Wednesdays before school (7:20-7:50am). Students must arrange these sessions by completing the sign-up sheet.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Ms. Park is very particular with the materials. Please be sure to try your best to get every single item listed below. More importantly, bring these materials to school every single day!

1. Blue and black pen
2. Pencils with erasers
3. Pencil sharpener/container for regular pencils OR lead for your mechanical pencils
4. 12-pack colored pencils
5. At least 4 highlighters of different colors (very important)
6. At least 4 pens of different colors (very important)
7. Loose lined paper (writing paper)
8. Chromebook
9. Notecards (with an organizational system – metal rings, container, ziplock bag, etc.) You need approximately 360 notecards for all your WPW quizzes throughout the school year.
10. **IMPORTANT!** A thin, plastic or paper folder w/brackets. This is your Course Folder (CF).

CONTACT ME: Please feel free to call or email me if you have any questions!

My email address: deborah.park@sausd.us OR deborah.park@sausdlearns.net

Conference period: 8th period

Directions: Please read the Classroom Information and sign below. Students, turn in this signed paper only and keep the first two pages in your CF.

I have read and I understand the Classroom Information and Expectations for myself.

Student **Signature**

Date

Student Name **(printed)**

Parent or Guardian Information: I have read and I understand the Classroom Information and Expectations for my child.

Parent/Guardian **Signature**

Date

Parent/Guardian Name **(printed)**

The best place to call me is at... ____ HOME ____ WORK ____ CELL

The phone number is: () _____

You can also reach me by my email: _____

Thank you. I look forward to a wonderful year of learning with your son/daughter!
Ms. Park