## Parents and Students,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to 8th Grade English Language Arts (ELA). As we navigate unknown territory in this “new normal”, our focus will always be ensuring that our students are well prepared for their next level of education. As the 8th grade team anticipates a wonderful 2020-2021 school year, we remain committed to providing instruction aligned to the Mississippi College and Career Readiness standards.

**About the Course**

*What can you expect from this class?*

This class demands critical thinking and reading and writing from a variety of texts. Students will be expected to write daily, with an emphasis on argumentative and explanatory writing. We want students to be able to explain their thinking effectively, using grammatically correct language and text-based evidence to prove their points. We want to enhance each student’s speaking and listening skills so that we can have rich and meaningful classroom discussions. Through our reading and writing, we will also focus on building each child’s academic and content specific vocabulary while strengthening text analysis skills. We also encourage strong class participation. Our goal this year and every year is for each child to be an effective reader, writer, and thinker.

*What do we expect from our students?*

We expect you to conduct yourself with PRIDE!

You must be…

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **P**repared | Have materials.  Be on time.  Follow all instructions. |
| **R**espectful | Use good manners and respectful language. |
| **I**nvolved | Actively participate in discussions and activities. |
| **D**ependable | Complete assignments on time.  Follow directions the FIRST time. |
| **E**xcellent | Always do your best. |

If you choose not to conduct yourself with PRIDE, we will follow the discipline policy set forth in the PJHS Student Handbook.

**Grade Scale:**

[90 – 100 = A]

[80 – 89= B]

[70 – 79= C]

[60 – 69= D]

[0 – 59= F]

**Grade Breakdown**

1. Minor Grades (includes class work, quizzes, homework, etc.) 40%
2. Major Grades (tests, essays, benchmarks) 60%

**Late Work or Work Not Turned In**

* Major tests and projects will receive a deduction if they are not turned in on time.
* Assignments not turned in on time will receive significant point deduction. Assignments that are egregiously late will not be accepted at all.

**Make-up Work**

You are responsible for any information you miss when you are out. You need to see your teacher before or after school, or you can email missed assignments. All tests and quizzes will be made up before or after school.

**Materials**

You are responsible for the following materials. I expect these materials to be brought to class everyday unless otherwise noted.

1. 3 ring binder with pockets
2. Notebook dividers: You will need to have at least FOUR (4) dividers. You will need to have one for each of the following topics:
   1. Bell and Bookwork
   2. Vocabulary
   3. Notes
   4. Handouts
3. Wide or college-ruled paper—no spiral notebooks! Please!
4. Pencils (preferred) or pens
5. Highlighters
6. ***One bottle of hand sanitizer, Kleenex, and Clorox wipes*** (Though we know supplies are limited, we need these more than ever now! If they can be found, we would be eternally grateful)
7. **School Planner**

If not covered in this correspondence, we will follow the handbook in ALL ventures.

Again, we look forward to this school year and getting to know each and every one of you!

Sincerely,

**PJHS 8th Grade ELA Teachers**

Erica Frazier

Stephanie Everett

Rebecca Smith