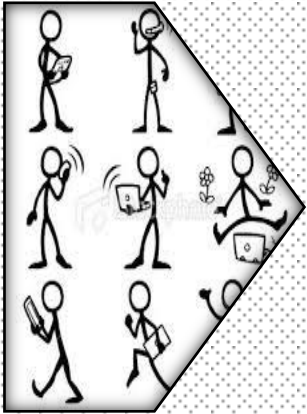
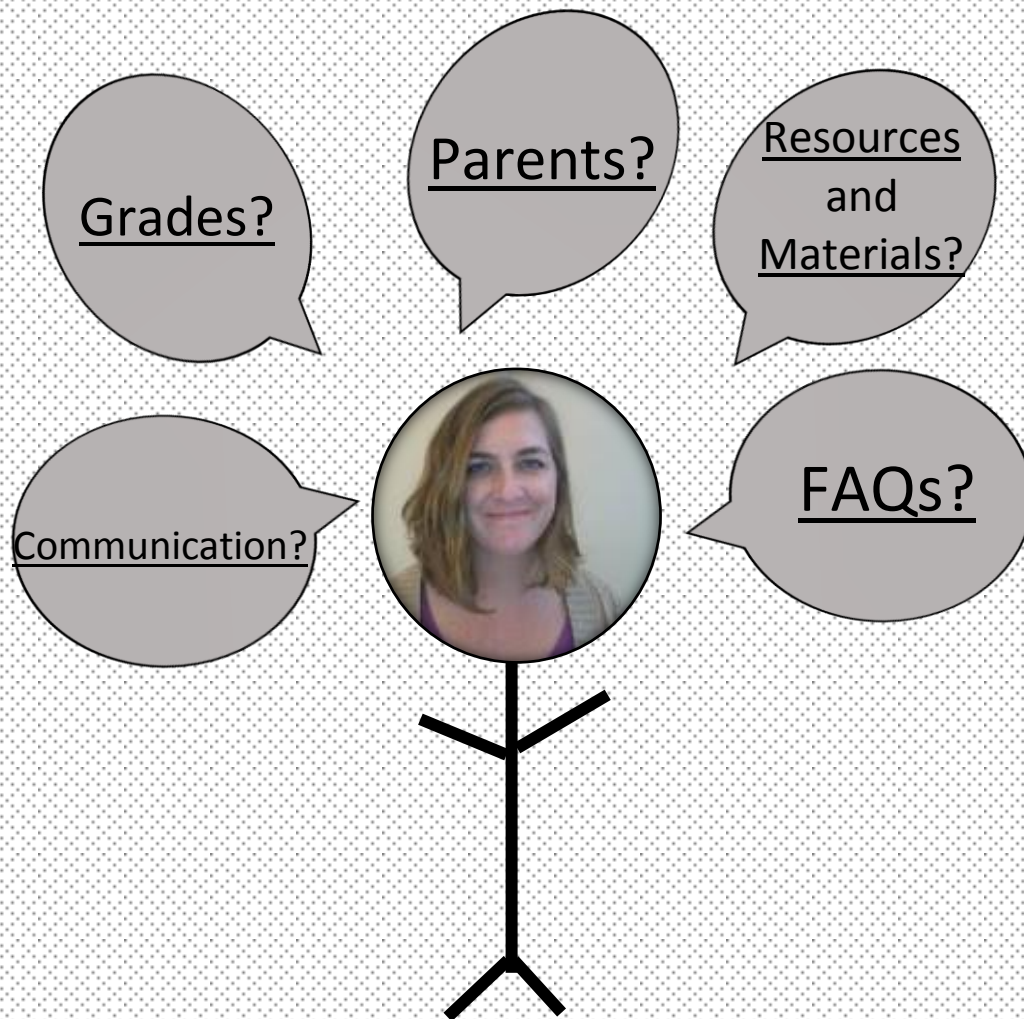


Room 25



Welcome! It is my privilege to be your 8th grade English/Language Arts teachers this last year before your high school journey. I hope to have a positive, profound impact on your life. In this document, I have included several important policies and guidelines to help your year be as successful as possible. Please sign and return the last page.

Note: For additional support, I will have a video tutorial explaining this document on my school webpage. Check it out!



8th Grade English/Language Arts

Tasks

Minor Tasks

To say it simply, this means practice. Here are some ways that we will practice mastering standards:

- Everyday Instructional Read (EIR)
- Close Reads
- Quick Writing Tasks
- Station Work
- Personal Word Wall (Vocabulary)

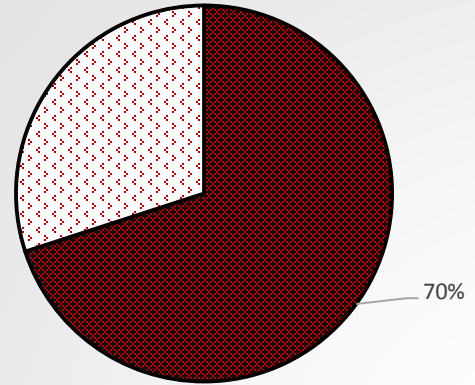
Major Tasks

To say it simply, the tasks that represent your true ELA experience. (This is why they are worth 70%.) Here are some types of major tasks:

- Fresh Reads
- Culminating Writing Task
- Culminating Project
- Final Exams

Mrs. Bridges' Class Policies & Information

Grade Weights



- Major Tasks
- Minor Tasks

How Grading Works

You will receive standards-based grades, which means that the title of your grades in the gradebook will be the standards (e.g., RL.2 Theme, W.1a Argument Intro, etc.)

To explain more, each task (e.g., a Fresh Read) will include questions/items aligned to one or more of the Florida ELA standards. In other words, you won't receive a grade for the Fresh Read by itself, but rather a grade for each standard addressed on the Fresh Read.

Fresh Read

Read the following passages.

Passage 1

It was a dark and dreary night...

Passage 2

It was another dark and dreary night...

1. Fill in the circles below to show why it was a dark and dreary night (8.RL.1.1)

2. A. What is the theme of Passage 1? (8.RL.1.2)

B. Which quotation helps develop the theme in Part A? (8.RL.1.2)

3. What does the word trial suggest in this passage? (8.RL.2.4)

Grade

Grade

Grade

Basically, you have to show evidence that you have mastered the skills and concepts associated with that standard. There are 5 levels of understanding, and I will always let you know how to reach the top level of mastery, as well as provide the support for you to do so.

I bet you have lots more questions. Please do not hesitate to email me and set up a time to discuss this.

Grades

Resources



We sometimes will use this online resource for grammar practice.



We will use this online resource to access texts.



We will use this resource to access nonfiction and literary texts. It is available both print and online.



If you want to know more about Project-Based Learning, use this resource.



We will use this online resource to access nonfiction and literary texts.



We will use this online resource to access nonfiction texts.



We will use this online resource to write collaboratively.

- 1ST period- o09iiv
- 2nd period- q0r6v7
- 3rd period- mjqu0s
- 5th period- 986w917
- 6th period- 2g5f0g

Materials to Bring Every Day to Class

See the 8th Grade Supply List on [Pryor's homepage](#). From that list, you will need to bring these items to class every day:



*Note: These are **not** additional items to be purchased. These are items from the grade-wide list provided to students.*

COMMUNICATION



dana.bridges@okaloosaschools.com



850.833.3613 Ext. 225



Both parents and students should join Remind to receive reminders from me. Simply follow the appropriate link below to receive directions.

Advanced ELA: <https://goo.gl/79y4x4>
ELA: <https://goo.gl/yCYVTS>



You may also communicate with me through my school webpage. Find my page after scrolling down here: <https://goo.gl/wCv32S>

Or by checking out this page: <http://danabridges.weebly.com/>

FAQS

1. What texts will we read and write about this year?

I don't know yet because you will help me decide this at the beginning of the year and throughout the year. Yes, you read that correctly. I will use the library, the websites listed in the [Resources](#) section of this syllabus, and other resources to help build a text set that revolves around a major writing task and project that you will complete before the end of each nine weeks. We will read/analyze a certain amount of varied types of texts: poetry, fiction (poetry, short story, novel, drama, etc.), informational (articles, websites, etc.), videos, podcasts, and other multimedia.

Advanced English students, you will also include the following novels in your text sets: *Animal Farm*, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *Heart of Darkness*, *Huckleberry Finn*, *The Red Badge of Courage*, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (biography), *The Outsiders*, and *The Pearl*.

2. What are the expectations for us as learners?

Simple: Meet your goals and don't hinder others from meeting their goals. If this happens, we will all be happy and successful.

Expectations
Remain on topic and on task.
Be respectful.

If you struggle with meeting these expectations, you will be warned. Consequences for not heeding the warning: We will develop an Individual In-Class Behavior Plan with your parent. In that plan, we will determine next steps. If the In-Class Behavior Plan is violated, the final step is an office referral.

3. What if I need to use the restroom during class?

Grab your planner.



Sign out, grab the pass, and make it a quick trip.



Sign in on the timesheet.

4. What about my other policies and procedures?

If students follow the two expectations above with everything (e.g., eating snacks, drinking water, using technology, talking to peers, talking to me, moving around the room), they will be successful.

PARENTS

I have dedicated a section just for you because I want to develop an ongoing partnership with you this year. Your child's education is very important to me, and having an ongoing partnership will help them be successful.

What can that partnership look like?

1. **Communication.** Please don't hesitate to communicate. I purposely provide multiple ways to reach me so you never have to wonder about your child's experience and progress. Please feel free to offer me multiple ways to contact you. (You know more about your child than I can learn in a year. Sharing what you already know with me will be greatly appreciated.)
2. **Community Connections.** Your child will experience Project Based Learning, which is a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge. How can you help? As students determine their projects, I will request support for helping them from you and other professionals and stakeholders you know in the community. Please see this resource to learn more about PBL and how you can help: <https://goo.gl/hDJNxN>.
3. **Feedback.** Occasionally, I will send out short surveys to gain feedback on how I'm doing from your perspective. I will definitely apply what I learn from you, so please complete them.
4. **Review their Checklists for Success daily.** Each day, students will create a daily plan. (Alternatively, they may choose to plan by the week.) This plan will have their current Checklists for Success, which will guide them on how to make the best grade on their quests. Simply ask them, "What was your Checklists for Success today?" If they can't explain it, they probably are struggling. Let me know.
5. **Encouragement.** The expectations for child are high. How can you help? Encourage them. Encourage them by having conversations about their lives. Encourage them by asking them questions. Encourage them by reading to them and listening to them read. Encourage them by providing them time to read at night. Encourage them by talking to me and figuring out how else to support them in this class. Encourage them by showing them how to make the best choices for their lives.

Thank you in advance for our ongoing partnership,

Dana Bridges

P.S. [Please sign and have your child sign and return the final page.](#) You may scan and [email it to me](#) if you prefer.

Parents

1. Please circle ONE for each statement:

My student has working internet access at home: YES NO
I would like a beginning-of-the-year conference: YES NO

2. Please circle ALL THAT APPLY for this statement:

I would like more information or a video tutorial about the following topic(s) mentioned in this document:

Grading Resources Project-Based Learning
Communication Materials List a topic: _____

3. Please tell me any concerns you have about this year:

4. Please tell me anything you want me to know about your child:

5. Student & Parent Acknowledgement: I have reviewed Mrs. Bridges' Class Policies & Information, as well as the student handbook in my planner, with my parent. I fully understand the expectations and consequences. Please sign and return to class by _____.

Parent or Legal Guardian Printed Name

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature

Student Printed Name

Student Signature

Parent or Legal Guardian E-mail Address

Parent or Legal Guardian Contact Phone Number(s)

Signature