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Remind Codes:

8th - LA8GOWERS **8th Honors** - LAH8GOWERS **9th** - LA9GOWERS **9th Honors** - LAH9GOWERS

Mr. Gowers

Language Arts 8th and 9th



Hello Parents and Students!

Welcome back to Jr. High. I hope you have had an enjoyable break, but I hope that you have an even more enjoyable year. 8th and 9th grade are formative years and it should be interesting, to say the least. That being said, some quick info for you...

Mastery Based Grading

This class, along with all CORE classes, will be implementing Mastery Based Grading. This means that a majority of your grade will be based on your ability to demonstrate proficiency on the standards for each class. It is incredibly important that you review the common Win-Win so you understand how grading will go this year. If you still have questions, please contact me or a member of the team to help answer any questions.

Course Goals

- Students will achieve mastery in all course standards- not just proficiency
- To develop every student's competence as writers, readers, speakers, listeners, and viewers of many different types of texts.
- To read, view, interact with, and analyze a variety of different texts, from classic to contemporary.
- To prepare students for higher-level reading, writing, and thinking tasks.
- To encourage college and career readiness, especially as students begin moving towards higher grade levels.

Grading Breakdown and Scale

Breakdown

- 70% - Evaluations of Standards
- 30% - Practice/Homework/Other

Scale

A	88.0 – 100
B	75.0 – 87.9
C	59.0 – 74.9
D	38.0 – 58.9
F	0 – 37.9

Late Work

Since we are shifting towards Mastery Based Grading, any work that is turned in later than the assigned due date will be graded at instructor discretion. While that is generally as soon as possible, there will be some exceptions that require delaying certain late work grading.

In addition, there will be a date where all late work submissions will be cut off. Those dates will vary, but only happen once per quarter and generally a few weeks before the end of the quarter. This is to encourage students to stay up to date with any and all work. Those dates will be announced well in advance.

My goal is to encourage a collegiate approach to school and work. Assignments and projects completed for class will be held up to a high academic standard, and turning in them in late would not be acceptable in a professional career or collegiate classroom. Now is the time to start taking responsibility.

Materials

- Notebook Paper (College ruled)
- Writing Utensils
- Completed work
- ELA Planner
- Docket with Language Arts section/Folder
- Highlighters (at least 3 different colors)

Classroom Rules/Expectations

Rules

- *Respect yourself.*
This rule is the most important rule in my class. Jr. High is a stressful time, and it is so easy to fall into negative and self-deprecating routines. I urge you to treat yourself kindly and with respect. You are doing your best.
- *Respect others.*
Jr. High is not only stressful for you. It is stressful for your classmates and friends as well. Bullying, name calling, or other destructive behavior will not be tolerated in my class. No exceptions.
- *Respect our Goals.*
This class has both an agenda and a plan. These goals are not only important to show that Early Light Academy is one of the best schools in the area, but also that we are constantly learning and growing. This classroom is a safe place for students to learn. Let's work together to keep it that way.

Final Thoughts

I know that this is a lot of information, and I'm certain you have questions. I'm happy to answer all questions that I can. For more information, please see my website at gowers.weebly.com.

There you can email me or find specific information about classes. I want us all to succeed. Let's do that together.

"Life is too short." -Mr. Gowers