

English 8 Syllabus

2007-2008

Mrs. Carol Brick

cbrick@greateratlantachristianschool.org

Welcome to English 8. I feel privileged, honored, excited and very blessed to teach your child this year. I look forward to getting to know each of my students **and** parents. I am eager to begin our study of literature, grammar, vocabulary, writing, and many more skills involved in reading. Comprehension, critical thinking, comparing and contrasting, along with the mechanics of grammar will be taught and applied in English 8.

Vocabulary: We will use *Wordly Wise 3000: Book 8*. One lesson per week will be completed. Vocabulary quizzes will be given on Fridays. In addition to the *Wordly Wise* workbook, vocabulary will be taught as part of literature units.

DGP: Daily Grammar Practice - An overview of our week -

Mon: parts of speech

Tues: sentence parts and phrases

Wed: clause and sentence type

Thurs: punctuation and capitalization

Fri: diagramming

This will be accomplished using one sentence a week. This involves "mini lessons" in class.

Grammar and Mechanics: The textbook, *Elements of Writing* will be used as a source to reinforce the mechanics of grammar. We have a classroom set of these textbooks. Handouts and class notes will also provide reference and study materials. Students will be assessed through quizzes.

Literature: We will begin the first semester reading short stories in the English 8 reading textbook, *The Language of Literature*. We will read 13 short stories in the first nine weeks of the semester.

The students will study, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, first semester **and** *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, second semester.

In addition, **Independent Reading** will be a regular part of our curriculum. **Every student is required to read 50 pages of independent reading by Friday of each week. Students are expected to bring a book to class on Friday.** Fridays will be designated as quiz and reading days with at least 20 minutes spent in sustained, silent reading. Points will be rewarded or deducted as to whether the student reads his/her 50 pages a week and brings an independent reading book to class on Friday. The 50 pages read can be from one book or a variety of books. Textbooks may not be included on the reading log. A **reading log** will be provided to each student to record their entries. The **reading log** will be kept in the Reading section of their English binder.

Writing: The students will be involved in a writing workshop on block day. Students will be involved in writing, editing, drafting, or talking about how to write, edit, and draft during these class periods. Writing activities will be assessed throughout the semester. The textbook, *Write Source*, will be used as a guide and resource to aid in sharpening writing skills.

NOTEBOOK: The English 8 binder is divided into **4** sections ~

1. grammar/DGP
2. writing
3. vocabulary
4. reading

"Grace Period": The first week of school is known as a "grace period." The students are introduced to the routine, procedures and materials required for class each day. Many students need to practice what is expected and practice following procedures. Beginning the second week of class, the "grace period" is over and all students will know their responsibilities and the consequences of their actions.

Grading: A point system will be used for grading. Every assignment will be assigned points according to its difficulty, length, and importance. **Every** assignment given is assigned a point value. Assignments are not to be thought of as "busy work." If it's not important enough for assigning points then it won't be assigned to the student. Some assignments may be combined with other assignments for point value. Example: *Wordly Wise* workbook is assigned almost daily but will receive a weekly point value of **16 points**. **Test, paper, and project** grades will range from **50-100 points**; **quiz** grades will range from **25-50 points**; and each **homework assignment** will range from **5-10 points**. Every Friday students will receive one **5 point** grade for reading the required 50 pages, and one **5 point** grade for bringing their independent reading book to class.

A teacher who is attempting to teach without inspiring the pupil with a desire to learn is hammering on a cold iron. - Horace Mann

The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires. - William W. Ward

The end of learning is to know God, and out of that knowledge to love Him and imitate Him. - John Milton

