

William H. Wetsel Middle School

2025-2026 English 8

Robert Price, Grace Estes

Introduction and Overview

Welcome to eighth grade English class. We are looking forward to working with each student this year. This class will focus on the development of writing skills, language usage, word study, mechanics, and literary analysis.

Goals for the Year

- Read and understand a variety of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.
- Identify the elements of fiction, including setting, plot, character, theme and conflict.
- Identify and explain analogies and figurative language.
- Analyze literature to understand the relationship between the text and its components, such as plot, author's choice of words, and figurative language.
- Use the study of literature to develop and enhance writing skills.
- Develop vocabulary skills.
- Complete a variety of writing assignments to introduce and refine expressive language.
- Use the writing process to develop a polished final product.
- Refine grammar and usage skills.
- Practice vocabulary skills.

Materials Needed for Class

- Folder or binder
- Sharpened pencil
- Free-reading book
- Composition notebook
- When instructed - colored pencils, highlighters, glue

Literature

Textbook: HMH Into Literature Virginia

Unit 1: Gadgets and Glitches, Unit 2: The Thrill of Horror, Unit 3: Places We Call Home, Unit 4: The Fight for Freedom, Unit 5: Finding Your Path, Unit 6: The Legacy of Anne Frank

Tentative Novel Selections

(Class novels will be chosen from this list.)

The Diary of Anne Frank, Brave, The Book Thief, The Time Machine, The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, The Outsiders, Out of the Dust, Number the Stars, Summer of My German Soldier, The Giver

General Class Rules and Attendance Policy

1. Students are expected to follow all school rules, as described in the handbook.
2. Respect for oneself, classmates, teachers, and the classroom is expected.
3. Students need to be in class and prepared to begin when the tardy bell rings.
4. Students are expected to bring all required materials to class every day.

Because of limited space, backpacks and winter coats are not allowed in the classroom.

Tardy Policy

First Tardy to Class: Warning and teacher speaks to student

Second tardy to Class: Warning and teacher contacts parent

Third tardy: Teacher contacts parent and assigns one day of lunch detention

Subsequent tardies: Teacher contacts parent and writes a referral, student serves one hour of

After-School Detention, after school detention and parent conference with administration.

School Rules:

We practice these character norms every day:

1. **Respect**
2. **Integrity**
3. **Responsibility**
4. **Kindness**
5. **American Citizenship**

Grading

Grades are calculated as follows:

- Classwork/Homework = 20%
- Quizzes = 30%
- Tests = 50%

Grades will be updated in Power School within one week, with the exception of projects or lengthy writing assignments.

Benchmark Assessments for each quarter will be given on the following dates:

- October 14th
- December 15th
- March 10th

Late Work

- There are two deadlines per quarter for late assignment submission. Any assignment that is not turned in by the respective 4.5 or 9 week reporting periods will remain a 0% in the gradebook.
- For example, if an assignment was due week 2, it must be submitted by the 4.5 interim.

VDOE Standards:

<https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/k-12-standards-instruction/english-reading-literacy/standards-of-learning/2024-english-standards-of-learning>

English Platform

Students will be using Google Classroom this year as their online classroom platform.

Communication

If a parent/guardian needs to communicate with a teacher, please call the office and leave a message (948-3783) or see email addresses below.

Grace Estes - email: gestes@madisonschools.k12.va.us

Robert Price - email: rprice@madisonschools.k12.va.us

William H. Wetsel Middle School 2025-2026 Eighth Grade English Syllabus

Please sign and return after reading through all expectations.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Date
