

Welcome to  
8th grade



**THE BRIDGES**  
ACADEMY

# English

(2019-2020 Class Syllabus)

Mrs. Heather Baur • Room 201 • [heather.baur@bridgesli.org](mailto:heather.baur@bridgesli.org)  
<https://sites.google.com/bridgesli.org/the-bridges-academy-hw/home>

Welcome back! I am looking forward to a great year with all the students at The Bridges Academy. I know we will all be working hard to ensure the year is successful and fulfilling as students build on their English language arts skills with more complex texts and rigorous writing assignments. I am always available via email or a call to the main office should you have any questions or concerns.

#### **In this class students will...**

- read and analyze texts including novels, articles, plays, and excerpts for a deeper understanding of the author's purpose.
- enrich their vocabulary with weekly vocabulary lists and assignments and regular assessments.
- complete various writing tasks using the Teacher's College Writing Workshop model including short answers, journals, reading responses and analysis, argument essays, research papers, etc.

#### **Grading Policy:**

The grading policy of all classes will be what is called a "points-based grading system". Instead of a set percentage of grades being pre-determined for each marking period, the weight of the grades will be calculated based on the points earned in a marking period out of the total possible points that were assigned. This system rewards effort and keeps any one part of the grading from overpowering the rest in a given marking period. It is imperative that homework be completed and that students give their best effort on all assignments and assessments.

#### **Participation**

Students can earn up to three points a day towards their participation grade which will be totaled at the end of each marking period. Students earn these points by contributing to class discussions and being present during instructional time. Should a student not be prepared for class with their assignments and materials, he or she will not be able to receive full participation credit for the day. For students who miss class due to an excused absence, points will not be given until make up work is completed in a timely manner as per the *Parent/Student Handbook*.

#### **Daily Required Materials:**

- a pen or pencil
- a section in their binder with looseleaf
- the class novel (if applicable)
- school-provided Chromebook, fully charged

## Homework

Homework is assigned regularly but not necessarily every night. Homework assignments for the week are posted on the homework website. Please check this regularly as assignments may change based on the needs of the class. Assignments are due at the *beginning of class each day*. Many of our class discussions are based on homework assignments. Therefore, it is important that students be prepared to discuss their responses in class. For this reason, homework not handed in at the start of class is considered late unless an exception is made with prior approval before the assignment is due. Points will be deducted for each day an assignment is late. Late assignments will not be accepted after two days.

## Absences

If a student is absent for an excused reason, *it is his or her responsibility to see me for the work they missed*. Absent students are unable to earn participation points for the day but will receive participation credit once these assignments are completed. Any tests or quizzes missed must be scheduled with me within two days of the student's return. Assignments missed due to an unexcused absence may not be made up. Please refer to the *Parent/Teacher Handbook* for clarification on excused and unexcused absences.

## PowerSchool

All graded assignments will be posted on PowerSchool. PowerSchool allows students and parents to keep track of a student's grade in real time, so it is imperative that both students and parents stay connected to the online portal. Not only will grades be posted on PowerSchool but comments may be attached to grades as well.

## Extra Help

English extra help is available on Monday afternoons from 3:00-3:30 and Thursday mornings from 7:30-8:00. Extra help is for assistance with concepts or assignments that a student is struggling with. Extra help is not to be used as a study hall. Students who wish to attend extra help need to bring a note from home in order to attend.

## Novels

The *planned* major works for this year are:

- Animal Farm by George Orwell
- To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
- Night by Elie Wiesel
- And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

**Student Signature**

**Date**

**Parent Signature**

**Date**