



Faiss Middle School Course Expectations

Dream... Believe... Soar to Achieve!

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English 8/2020-2021

- I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This one-year course emphasizes the development of critical reading and writing skills. A variety of literature and informational text of steadily increasing sophistication is used. Through close reading, careful writing, class discussions, and presentations, students deepen their ability to independently write, analyze, evaluate, and critique text. Students demonstrate increasing sophistication in all aspects of language use. Students actively seek to understand other perspectives and cultures through reading and listening. Technology is used thoughtfully to enhance reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language use. This course fulfills the eighth-grade English requirement.
- A. Please refer to Google Classroom for links to text online, general class information, and resources.
- II. HOURS OF AVAILABILITY** – Teachers will be available weekday mornings from 8:20 a.m. -8:55 a.m. and by appointment during student independent work time scheduled weekly. Based on special circumstances (clubs, activities, parent conferences), hours of availability are subject to change. Please email or inbox your teacher for an appointment.
- III. GRADING POLICY**
- A. DESCRIPTION OF GRADING PROCEDURES** – Students' grades will be calculated based on the following categories and percentages:
- 80% Mastery [assessments]
 - 20% In Progress [classwork/practice]
1. Participation in class is an integral part of student success. Participation grades may be present in any grading category, depending on the standard being measured.
 2. Notebooks & Binders – Students will have a Notebook and a Binder in class for regular classroom activities and vocabulary. These may be graded throughout each quarter, typically for a practice grade.
 3. Homework will be assigned on a regular basis to include assigned reading, writing, and/or material extension or review activities and will count toward the practice category of the overall grade.
 4. Special projects may include a combination of in-class and homework assignments. Special projects may include Unit Embedded Assessments, which are categorized as summative assessments to measure mastery.
- 1st Semester Exams will be the week of December 14, 2020. 2nd Semester Exams will be the week of May 24, 2021. Students may not take semester exams early; however, students who are absent on semester exam days may schedule an appointment with the counseling office and/or assistant principal's office to make-up the exam. SEMESTER EXAMS WILL BE WORTH 10% OF THE SEMESTER GRADE SCHOOL-WIDE.

B. BASIS FOR QUARTER AND SEMESTER GRADES – The following will be utilized when assigning final grades for the quarter and the semester:

- 45 % Quarter Grade
- 45 % Quarter Grade
- 10 % Semester Exam

GRADE SCALE

ACADEMICS:	CITIZENSHIP:
100% - 90% = A 89%- 80% = B 79%- 70% = C 69%- 60% = D 59% or less= F	100 - 90 = Outstanding 89 - 70 = Satisfactory 69 – 50 = Needs Improvement 49 or less = Unsatisfactory <i>** Point values recorded in Infinite Campus. Please see the Citizenship Rubric on Page 4.</i>

Important Class Information

Log in to your child’s Canvas course through clever.ccsd.net. You will find important information regarding your child’s English class. This site will provide basic class information by teacher and class period, and as well as notes, calendars, vocabulary, assignments, links, general resources, and any other pertinent information for English class. All work can be picked up here, and most work can be submitted here, with the exception of assignments on ActivelyLearn, a reading program we will be using.

Obtaining Student Grades

Stay current on your student’s grades by visiting Infinite Campus or on Canvas. You may also find a link to Infinite Campus on the CCSD or Faiss Middle School home pages. Grades are updated regularly. If you need help with obtaining a username and password, please visit our registration office. Grades will regularly be posted in the classroom to inform students. Progress reports will be distributed once per quarter.

C. ATTENDANCE/FAILING GRADES/RETENTION ENFORCEMENT:

Attending school on a regular basis is vital to academic success. Students who miss more than 10 unapproved absences in any course during a semester (18 weeks) may receive a failing semester grade for that course. An approved absence, as defined, is an unavoidable absence caused by illness, court appearances, religious holidays, and an emergency outside the control of the student or the student’s family, and/or a prearranged absence (not exceeding 10 in a school year).

A pupil in Grade 6 must complete one semester with a passing grade in mathematics, English or reading, and science for promotion to the seventh grade. A pupil in Grade 7 must complete one semester with a passing grade in mathematics, English or reading, science, and social studies for promotion to the eighth grade. A pupil who enters Grade 8 must complete three semesters with a passing grade in mathematics, three semesters with a passing grade in English or reading, two semesters with a passing grade in science, and two semesters with a passing grade in social studies during the seventh and eighth grade years for promotion to high school (CCSD regulation 5123).

D. MAKE-UP PROCEDURES:

Teachers shall provide an opportunity for a student to make up missed work due to any absence. Students shall be held accountable for their work. When a student is absent, the educational experiences lost during that absence

might be irretrievable because the instruction and interaction in the instructional setting cannot be duplicated through make-up work.

After any absence, a secondary student is required to initiate contact with his teacher(s) to obtain appropriate make-up work within three (3) school days immediately following the absence. Once contact has been made with the teacher(s), specific make-up work must be completed and returned to the teacher(s) within a reasonable length of time, to be determined by the teacher and communicated to the student/parent or legal guardian. The make-up work must be returned to the teacher(s) by the specified due date if it is to be acknowledged. Students shall be allowed a minimum of (3) three days to complete make-up work.

IV. STUDENT PLANNERS/NOTEBOOKS – Students will be encouraged to utilize the Calendar features available in Canvas in order to stay organized and aware of due dates for assignments and assessments within each of their courses.

List of School Supplies:

- ✓ **Charged computer**
- ✓ **Working microphone**
- ✓ **Paper and pen (optional - some students prefer to write notes by hand)**

V. CLASSROOM RULES

The school code of conduct for Faiss Middle School is: **1. RESPECT Yourself, 2. RESPECT Others, 3. RESPECT Your School.** Please refer to Canvas classes for specific rules and procedures for each English teacher. Inappropriate behaviors include, but are not limited to: tardiness, lewd or profane comments, lack of participation, unpreparedness, running, horseplay, yelling, physical contact with another, not following instruction, throwing things, talking out of turn, leaving seat without permission, vandalizing the property of others or the school, etc. Students found engaging in inappropriate behavior will follow the progressive discipline plan below, except in extreme circumstances where immediate removal from the classroom is necessary. When learning digitally, students are expected to enter with camera on (when possible) and microphone off. Students are expected to use the chat feature for on-topic questions or comments as requested by their teacher. Be mindful that discussions with others online are kind.

A. FAISS FLYER 15

All students will be expected to model the Faiss Flyer 15 at all times and be awarded points for their house for doing so.

1. When responding to any adult, you must answer by using their name and/or saying “Yes Ma’am/Sir” or “No Ma’am/Sir.
2. Always say thank you when given something.
3. Surprise others by performing random acts of kindness.
4. Regardless of where you are on campus, keep it clean.
5. If someone drops something, offer to pick it up.
6. Be considerate of others and hold the door.
7. You are expected to learn and follow your teacher’s classroom rules.
8. Make eye contact and track the speaker.
9. During discussions, respect other students’ comments, opinions, and ideas.
10. Make every effort to be organized.
11. Always encourage your classmates to be successful.
12. When a guest teacher is present, greet them, make them feel welcome, and follow all classroom rules.
13. Be positive and enjoy life. A smile goes a long way.
14. Learn from your mistakes and move on.

15. No matter what the circumstance, always be honest.

B. PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE PLAN

All teachers at Faiss Middle School will use the following progressive discipline plan (dependent upon similar infraction):

1. Teacher intervention
2. Teacher intervention with parent contact
3. Teacher intervention with parent contact
4. Referral to Dean

C. ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

1. Be on time to class.
2. Come with technology charged and be in an environment with the least amount of distractions as possible.
3. Participate!
4. Revise work after it is graded to improve knowledge and to show mastery of skills learned.

VI. CITIZENSHIP – Students will earn a citizenship grade for each quarter based on their behavior. Grades will be tracked each quarter in students’ gradebooks on Infinite Campus. The following citizenship categories apply:

<i>Citizenship grade reflect class behavior, responsibility, cooperation, ability to work with peers, adherence to the Faiss Flyer 15 principles, and overall attitude. This rubric outlines the behavior and performance criteria for earning citizenship grades.</i>				
Expectations	Outstanding	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement	Unsatisfactory
Be respectful to teacher.	Treats teachers in a respectful manner. Stands to participate without reminders. Says “yes/no” and “Ma’am/Sir” consistently. Consistently tracks the speaker. Follows directions. Asks questions appropriately.	Usually treats teachers in a respectful manner. May need to be reminded to stand. Attempts to address with respect (“Ma’am/Sir”), but not 100%. Mostly tracks the speaker. Uses appropriate language with adults. May need reminders to follow directives.	Sometimes treats teacher disrespectfully. May need a reminder to be respectful and caring. Does not say “yes/no” “Ma’am/Sir” and is often not tracking the speaker. May occasionally use a rude tone or sarcasm with staff or exhibit mild insubordination.	Consistently treats teachers disrespectfully; moderate to severe chronic misbehavior in class; rude tone; insubordination and/or belligerence.
Be respectful to classmates and guests.	Encourages and helps others; cleans up after self and others; says please, thank you, may I; praises and encourages others; works well independently and cooperatively; does not tolerate bullying; brings supplies daily; shows good sportsmanship; opens doors for others; does not cut in line.	Usually treats classmates respectfully. Cleans up only after self, but not others. Does not consistently use please, thank you, may I; mostly works well collaboratively; may occasionally borrow supplies, but usually has them; opens doors for others; does not cut in line.	Some misbehavior during class; sometimes treats classmates disrespectfully or exhibits inappropriate horseplay during class. Seat may be moved for misbehavior or peer conflict. Does not say please, thank you, may I; may let down the collaborative team; comes to class unprepared; may be bossy towards others.	Often treats class members in a negative way with put-downs, tone of voice, refusals or bullying; entices others to misbehave. Whines or complains about work aloud or otherwise lowers class morale. Poor group participation seat may be moved for misbehavior or peer conflict.
Be the best you can be!	Is on time, honest and positive, self-reflective upon their work, and	Usually on time (1-2 tardies; does not submit 100% effort; may have no-name papers	Sometimes late (3-4 tardies; turns in work that is incomplete rather than requesting an extension; uses late passes often or	Often late (5 or more tardies), frequently turns in work that is incomplete or uses all late passes for the

	submits the best work at all times. Does not leave class until dismissed.	occasionally; occasionally may try to stand to leave class before dismissed.	may have missing/incomplete assignments; may try to stand to leave class before dismissal.	quarter; has missing/incomplete assignments; may try to stand to leave before class dismissal
Apply metacognitive strategies.	Uses 100% of class time to work. Completes classwork regularly. Sets goals and timelines for finishing work on time; monitors own self; self-redirects; advocates for self as needed; positively participates in class frequently; assess own work and others' honestly.	Completes most classwork; sets goals and timelines for finishing most work on time; monitors own work; may advocate for self; may occasionally participate in class; assess own work and work of others honestly.	Usually does not complete classwork. Sometimes listens and follows directions. Needs frequent reminders to remain on task. Does not participate appropriately (blurting out or creates off-task distractions); may not assess work honestly.	Academic apathy. Rarely does classwork. Disturbs and distracts others. May be sent to time-out location or Behavior Office. Does not participate appropriately (blurting out or creating off-task distractions). May not assess work honestly.

VII. VOLUNTEER - As active partners with your child's education, parents and guardians are welcome to volunteer anytime and any day in our class. Any help that you extend to ensure all students' success in their learning is deeply appreciated.

VIII. OTHER PERTINENT ITEMS UNIQUE TO YOUR CHILD'S ENGLISH CLASSROOM

Students are expected to come to class prepared to learn each and every day. This is the final year in preparation for high school, therefore the rigor of the course has increased. Expectations are set high to prepare students for future success and to become critical thinkers. Upon exit of middle school, students should be able to take initiative in their own learning and success both in and out of the classroom.

Small clips of films may be used to enhance the educational experience. All clips have been deemed relevant to the curriculum. By signing this form, you consent to your child viewing clips your child's teacher and administration have determined are valuable to the content of your child's experience in English class.

Cellphone and personal devices may be requested or encouraged for specific assignments and activities at teacher discretion. Students should keep phones turned off and put away unless directed by their teacher to take it out for instructional use. Please note that data rates from your carrier will apply, and while cell phone and personal device use will not be a requirement for success, students may occasionally be encouraged to use the technology for an enhanced learning experience.

English 8 students will be required to utilize Google Classroom for some assignments, and to access lessons, notes, and assignments from home. In the event your child needs to access the Google Classroom and does not have a personal device, the library is available before and after school for computer use. Please see the librarian for hours.

Please refer to Canvas for regular updates, important class information, resources for continued learning at home as well as important links, and contact information. If you would like to volunteer or otherwise support your child's English class, please contact your child's counselor. If you wish to contact your child's English teacher, the most efficient way is by contacting the email address listed on the first page.

Course Expectations Parent Signature Sheet

2020-2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Hello, my name is Ms. Costa, Mrs. DelCasino, Ms. Goodman, Ms. McKinney, or Ms. O'Meara, and I will be your child's English 8 teacher this year. **Please take a moment to read the attached course expectations and sign and complete this information sheet.** At some time during the year, I may find it necessary to contact you concerning your child's academic progress and/or behavior in the classroom. At Faiss MS, we look forward to communicating with families on a regular basis. The strongest ally I have in the classroom is YOU. Students do better in school when teachers and parents communicate.

I look forward to having a successful year with all my students. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me either by phone or email.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Ms. Costa, , Mrs. DelCasino, Ms. Goodman, Ms, McKinney, and Ms. O'Meara

Student Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

I have read and understand the course expectations for my class.

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Please fill out this form and have your student return a screenshot or photograph of it to their teacher in Canvas.