

**J.E. Cosgriff Memorial Catholic School**  
**8th Grade Literature and English**  
2018-2019

Ms. Gehrig  
mgehrig@cosgriff.org

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**Dear Students and Parents,**

I'm thrilled to be returning as your child's eighth grade language arts teacher this year! I received my B.S. degree from Illinois State University in 2011 with a focus in middle school reading and writing. This will be my seventh year teaching, as well as my fourth year at Cosgriff. In addition to eighth grade language arts, I teach sixth grade religion, seventh grade social studies, and help facilitate Youth Group.

Our theme this school year is acceptance- accepting ourselves and others at all times. This theme will arise in academic work alongside our day to day interactions with each other. My goal is to help guide your child to their full potential. They will be regularly expected to state and support their claims and beliefs, as well as propose solutions in times of trial. Growth mindset will be a daily reminder in our classroom as we work through challenging moments. Please encourage your child to speak up and take initiative throughout the year. With a busy eighth grade year, communication is key in raising adults that can contribute to society in a healthy manner.

To help achieve our common goal of preparation, and hard work, and growth, I have included our classroom rules on the fourth page. Students, please review the content of this letter with your parents, add your signatures with mine and **bring the signature page only to class on Monday August 20th in the "Back to School Night" folder**. Please keep the cover letter to refer to the grading and missing work policies in the future.

Looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Martina Gehrig

**8th grade Literature**

Text: Prentice Hall, Literature, (Silver Level)

Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt, Collections, (Black Level)

Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt, Performance Assessment

Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt, Close Reader

In eighth grade literature, students will read and analyze a variety of different genres. In particular, students will learn how to determine what a particular text is saying explicitly, and to make logical inferences from it. Students will cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support

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conclusions drawn from the text (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.1). Students will recognize and evaluate how literary elements are employed in a piece of writing, including: irony, satire, humor, figurative language, theme, plot, mood, tone, flashback, conflict, dialogue, character, point of view, analogy, and allusion (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.6).

Special projects include: group projects, speeches, a research paper, and the Shakespeare play. Writing assignments will be assigned in conjunction with the different genres of literature studied.

**Literature Grading:** 20% homework, 30% writing, 20% tests/quizzes, and 20% projects

## **English: Grammar and Writing**

Text: Loyola Press, **VOYAGES IN ENGLISH – GRAMMAR AND WRITING, 2011**

### **I. Writing:**

\*Students will write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.1).

\*Students will write narratives to develop real or imagined experience or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.3).

\*Students will write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of content (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.2).

\*Students will write a research paper that answers a question regarding their topic. This paper will demonstrate a clear understanding of the subject being investigated (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.7).

\*Students will produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.4).

### **II. Grammar:**

\*Students will correctly use parts of speech in sentence structure, including: nouns, adjectives, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, interjections, verbals, participles, and infinitives.

\*Students will continue to hone their skills in organizing their ideas, writing drafts, editing, and revising (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.8.1).

**English Grading:** 30% homework, 40% writing, and 30% tests/quizzes

**III. Latin Roots, Vocab, and Spelling:** Students will take weekly tests showing knowledge of spelling patterns and correct usage (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.8.4).

**Latin Roots/Vocab/Spelling Grading:** 30% classwork and 70% tests/quizzes

## **Late Work/Make-up Work**

One late homework assignment per quarter in English OR Literature will be accepted with a 20% reduction in score until the FRIDAY following the due date. A late homework pass MUST be stapled to the assignment to receive partial credit. One late homework pass was given to students on the first day of school. NO credit will be given for any additional late assignments. Make-up work must be completed within one week of returning to school. If you have been ill, you have one week to make up work you have missed. I strongly urge you to complete any absent work as soon as possible.

## **Religion**

Religion is integrated throughout the day in all subjects. Connections are made between our Catholic Christian beliefs and the use of our gifts, the choices made, and the treatment of others. The standards of the 8th grade curriculum, as taught by Ms. Curry, focus on the following:

Standard 1- Creed: Students will demonstrate understanding of core Catholic beliefs.

Standard 2- Worship and Sacraments: Students will demonstrate understanding and practice of Catholic worship and sacraments with an emphasis on the centrality of the Eucharist in the life of Catholics.

Standard 3- Morality: Students will understand right from wrong and be able to make good moral choices in life decisions that are consistent with Church teaching and a Christian lifestyle.

Standard 4- Social Justice: Students will demonstrate understanding of Catholic social teaching and apply these principles to social and personal situations.

Standard 5- Core Scripture: Students will read, interpret, and apply Scripture to their own daily life situation.

Standard 6- Family Life: Students will demonstrate their understanding of Christian family life and how it is nourished and passed on.

Standard 7- Liturgical Year: Students will demonstrate their understanding of the Liturgical year and how it is celebrated.

Standard 8- Christian Prayer and Practice: Students will be able to demonstrate, understand, and use traditional prayer forms in the Catholic tradition.

Standard 9- Vocabulary: Students will be able to demonstrate understanding and use of religious vocabulary.

Standard 10- Vocation: Life styles: Students will demonstrate their understanding of different vocations and lifestyles to prepare them to respond to their own call.

Standard 11- Service: Students will engage in service to the community (family, parish, local, national, and global) by action and reflection on our response to the Gospel call.

Standard 12- Saints: Students will explore the lives of saints in order to expand their role models for Christian living.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## 8th Grade Classroom Rules

### Rules: Do Your Part

1. Come Prepared
2. Be Respectful
3. Clean Up After Yourself
4. Maintain Academic Integrity
5. Be Your Own Advocate

**STUDENTS: I have read the student and parent letter provided at Middle School Back to School Night. I understand the grading and late work policies. I have read the classroom rules and understand them. I will honor the rules while attending Middle School Language Arts.**

**Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_**

**PARENTS: I have read the student and parent letter provided at Middle School Back to School Night. I understand the grading and late work policies. My child has discussed the classroom rules with me. I understand the rules and will support them.**

**Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_**

**TEACHER: I will be fair and consistent in administering the Middle School Language Arts classroom policies and rules.**

**Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_**