Instructor Information

**Instructor: Kenzie Pratt**

**Classroom: C105**

**Email: kgpratt1@okcps.org**

**Cell: 405-312-3874 (No calls or texts after 9:00 p.m.)**

**Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Friday after 2:30 p.m.**

General Information

The 8th Grade ELA program is designed to ensure that students learn and master several different strategies in order to evaluate, interpret, and respond to a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. There is also a strong focus on developing writing skills, especially argumentative writing, which is the mode of writing that the state will test students over at the end of the year. It is my personal goal to give students the tools necessary to communicate effectively, so they may successfully navigate the world.

Expectations and Goals

In order for students to achieve a passing grade and remain successful in this class they must:

1. **Attend Class Regularly (no less than 90% of class days)**
2. **Show Respect for Fellow Classmates and Instructor**
3. **Come Prepared to Learn and Actively Participate in Classroom Activities**
4. **Complete Assigned Homework and Get It Turned In ON TIME**
5. **Build Reading Stamina and Develop A Love for Reading by Reading Independently at Home (at least 2hrs/week)**
6. **Adequately Study for Upcoming Quizzes and Tests**

Homework

Students will be assigned a non-fiction article to closely read, annotate, and respond to in writing once a week for homework. This article will be sent home on Tuesday and is due the following Monday. Additional homework may be assigned if we are working on a class project that requires more time than is allotted during school hours. If this is the case, I will always announce it ahead of time and send a notification home through the Remind app. The amount of homework assigned will be carefully considered and should not interfere with other school and family functions. Homework packets will be assigned over breaks to ensure that students maintain knowledge. A hard copy of the article of the week will be handed out in class and posted on the classroom’s Google Classroom each week. If there are any questions about homework, please contact me.

**LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES. ACCORDING TO DISTRICT POLICY, STUDENTS HAVE 5 DAYS TO MAKE-UP WORK AFTER MISSING THE ASSIGNMENT. ALL OTHER LATE WORK IS DISCOURAGED AND WILL BE SUBJECT TO A PENALTY OF AT LEAST 20%. I WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY WORK TURNED IN AFTER THE QUARTER IN WHICH IT WAS ASSIGNED!**

Independent Reading

Independent reading is reading for information or reading for pleasure. Students choose the texts that they will read independently. Studies have repeatedly shown that students who read independently have increased reading comprehension, vocabulary, and general knowledge. Building reading stamina and developing a love of reading will continue to be beneficial throughout life. Time will be set aside for students to choose a book from the classroom or school library. Students should choose something they will want to read outside of class. It is okay to “break up” with a book.

Tutoring

Tutoring is held each Wednesday and Thursday from 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm. If the instructor believes a student will benefit from extra help, then that student will be invited to Wednesday or Thursday tutoring. Busses will be available.

Technology

Each student in my class will be assigned a Chromebook (small laptop) to use in class. Students may not take these Chromebooks home. However, this means that much of the work we do in class will be accessible online via **Google Classroom**. Each student will know how to login and will have access to this work outside of class.

Also, John Marshall will be using **Infinite Campus** this year to enter grades, attendance, etc. I highly recommend that parents download the Infinite Campus app on their phones, so they may track their child’s progress and remain in contact with his/her teachers.

I will also be sending notifications out through the **Remind.com** app. This service works with any cell phone that receives text messages. I recommend that both parents and students use this service. I will automatically enroll all students and parents when provided with a cell phone number. However, you will have the option to deny this service when notified via text.

Required Materials

1. Pencils (Need ASAP)
2. Pens
3. 1.5” – 2” binder (Need ASAP – this binder will be kept in bins in my classroom and used for ELA only)
4. Loose-leaf college ruled paper
5. Agenda book (to keep track of assignments in ALL classes- only one is needed)
6. 2-pocket folder
7. 3x5 index cards (one pack=200 cards)
8. Highlighters (optional)

Grading Scale

Homework: 15%

Classwork/Participation: 15%

Quizzes: 20%

Tests: 25%

Projects, Papers, and Packets: 25%