

**South Cache 8-9 Center
Eighth Grade English – Room #17
2016-2017**

Sherry A. Anderson, Instructor
Phone: 435-245-6433 Ext: 1217
Email: sherry.anderson@ccsdut.org
Class Website: <http://mssandersonsouthcache.weebly.com>

Description:

This course is designed to engage students in writing (descriptive, argumentative, narrative, poetry and expository papers), reading (short stories, poems, novels, essays, informational text, etc.), grammar concepts, and grammar rules. Students will complete oral presentations, understand the six trait writing process, participate in vocabulary reinforcement, and daily oral language activities. Students will expand and apply critical thinking, listening, reading, speaking, editing, publishing skills, and prepare for further study in English.

Objective:

The objective of this course is to provide the student with instruction and knowledge in grammar, literature, informative text, and writing as required by the Utah State Common Core Curriculum.

Textbooks Used:

Exploration in Literature by Scott Foresman Publishing
The Writer's Craft by McDougall, Littell & Company
Literature Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes, Prentice Hall Publishing
Write Source 2000 by Sebrank/Kemper/Meyer
Writer's Choice, Glencoe-McGraw Hill Publishing
Nonfiction Readings Across the Curriculum by Prentice Hall Publishing

Novels Used:

Varieties of novels are used throughout the school year and often tie to the history curriculum.

Please note that textbooks and novels are few in number compared to students who will use them each day. Students may check out a textbook or novel, but again there are few in number so please check with the library here at school or at the community library for a novel and the class website: <http://mssandersonsouthcache.weebly.com> for textbook readings as I often upload those readings for the students.

Student Supplied Materials: (Materials for class are required by Friday, August 26, 2016)

1. A binder with either a section for English or a binder just for English (You can always reuse a binder from last year) to keep things together for the entire year.
2. **Lined paper—lots, lots, lots, lots and lots of paper.** Please be responsible and bring your own paper don't expect others in class to provide paper for you.
3. Pencils with erasers or pens if desired—**no** yellows, oranges, or other hard to see colors! Please use a blue, black or dark green color. If I cannot read it, I will **not** grade your paper and you cannot make it up! Red pens can only be used for grading purposes.
4. Colored pencils/crayons and a hand-held pencil sharpener.
5. A reading book when you are finished with work.
6. A flash drive, and you may use Google Drive to store your files too.

Evaluation & Grading:

Grades earned will reflect the student's ability to understand, participate, and express knowledge of the materials discussed in class. Grades are earned on a point system accumulated from assignments, projects, presentations, quizzes, tests, and class participation. The grade book by PowerSchool and managed by the district office will dictate the grading scale used for this class. The scale is posted in the room for reference.

Grade information and assignment information is available through PowerSchool, which is a web-based program. The URL is <https://powerschool.ccsdut.org/>.

Students may access the **Daily Agenda** at <http://mssandersonsouthcache.weebly.com> to find out what went on during class for each day.

Students will also be required to complete some course work on the computer. Computer lab time will be made

available, but in the event that your child doesn't finish his/her assignment then the student will need to make arrangements to complete the work on his/her own time or at home. If you do not have access to the Internet students will be required to complete the assignments on their time here at school during the school-wide study hall, during lunch, before or after school. The computer lab is open Monday-Thursday from 3:00 to 3:30 P.M.

Make-up Work/Absences (Planned or Unplanned):

When a student returns to school after an illness or other unplanned absence, he or she is responsible for finding out what lessons and assignments have been missed. To make this easier, I have a calendar with the day's assignments on the west wall of my room, a weekly agenda on the front board, and a class **Daily Agenda ONLINE** at <http://mssandersonsouthcache.weebly.com> .

Students may also access assignments on PowerSchool. Each assignment for this class has directions which can be accessed by clicking on the assignment highlighted in blue in PowerSchool (<https://powerschool.ccsdut.org>)

Students must be accountable for their own learning. Therefore, I place this responsibility in their hands. I am available almost every day before and after school to assist students who need individual attention regarding make-up lessons, but I also encourage students to come even if they have not missed class, but would still like some help.

I encourage you to carefully consider the strain of pulling your child out of school for extended, planned periods of time (hunting trips, vacations, etc.) A primary catalyst for learning is consistency of instruction. It is severely affected by absences of any kind. **I do not usually prepare individual lessons in advance for students who notify me of a planned absence.** It may be possible that I will be able to put a packet together for the student, but in the likelihood that I cannot, it will be their responsibility to make up any missed work upon their return in addition to all current work assignments. Students returning from extended, planned absences will have **FIVE days** to turn in missed work after returning from an extended, planned absence.

Please remember that absences affect academic success, I cannot re-create classroom experiences for students who are absent; therefore, **participation points cannot be made up if you are absent.**

Citizenship:

Citizenship will appear on the student's grade sheet as points. Citizenship is earned by being on time, being prepared, being respectful to yourself, each other and your teacher. Respect the right to learn. Students who are tardy and are disrespectful verbally and/or behaviorally will lose their citizenship. Up to 10% of the students' academic grade can be affected by their citizenship. The following is the citizenship breakdown:

- 10-9=O (outstanding)
- 8-7=S (satisfactory)
- 6-5=S (satisfactory)
- 4-3=N (needs improvement)
- 2-1=U (unsatisfactory)

A student who chooses to remedy his/her behavior and/or tardiness must speak with the teacher for possible opportunities to earn back his or her citizenship grade. **ALL STUDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EARN BACK HIS/HER CITIZENSHIP.**

Late Assignments:

I believe that punctuality is a virtue in the real world of work and responsibility. This 8th grade year, we are working toward being freshmen. Students have two opportunities to turn in work. The first is obviously the deadline date (100% credit), the second and final cut off is the monthly scheduled deadline (50% credit) to complete assignments that are posted in the classroom. Assignments turned in after the monthly deadline will not be graded and credit will not be given. If a student is absent on the monthly deadline **NO** additional time is extended because three to four weeks has already passed and ample opportunities have been given to the student as well as reminders.

Assignments that **CANNOT** be made up or turned in after the scheduled assignment deadline(s) has expired are:

- Grade sheets with parent signature
- Rough draft writing assignments
- Brainstorming activity assignments
- Extra credit opportunities
- Presentations
- Other assignments as deemed by the teacher

Assignments with no name:

Assignments turned in without a student's name will be thrown away, and students will be required to complete assignments over. Late assignment policy applies if you have to redo an assignment because you forgot to put your name on it.

Performance Standards:

RESPECT THE CHANCE TO LEARN

- Come to class on time (in your seat before the tardy bell rings)
- Come to class prepared (supplies, assignments, and attitude)

RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

- Keep your hands and feet to yourselves
- No name calling
- No foul language
- Do not interrupt a fellow student when he or she is speaking

RESPECT THE PROPERTY AROUND YOU

- No pop, food, or candy in the classroom (most harmful to floors, books, etc.)
- No scratching, marring, writing, or wasting property that is not yours.

RESPECT YOUR TEACHER

-Be silent when we are speaking. This means pay attention in class, listening to our instructions the first time that we give them. If you do not hear or understand them, raise your hand and ask us to repeat or explain. Do not remain in the dark.

RESPECT YOURSELF

-Always do your best in all that you attempt in your classes.

Learning Activities:

A balance of educational learning experiences for a student is offered to meet his/her needs. In this way success can be achieved by both the individual learner and the group that is dependent on the expertise and interest of the individual.

Individual work is encouraged through:
maintaining a personal portfolio
independent reading and writing
independent studies

Small group work is encouraged through:
discussions
study groups
problem solving groups
sharing skills and processes
project work
peer conferences
presentations

Other:

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns at the school between 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. You may email me at sherry.anderson@ccsdut.org

Detach and return this entire sheet by Friday, August 26, 2016

Student's printed name: _____

Hour in English: _____

My child and I have read over the class requirements and expectations. We have discussed the importance of each area and will strive to meet the expectations of this class.

Parent/Guardian signature

Student signature

Ten points are earned by student if both parent and student sign and turn in this detached page by Friday, August 26, 2016. Please keep the other pages for your reference in your English binder in the notes section.