

English 8th Grade Course Outline

Tokyo International Progressive School

Room: 24

Teacher: Mr. Jeffrey Visser

Course Description

This course is designed to develop students' ability to read, understand, analyze, and respond to a variety of literary genres and informational texts. Students will examine key literary elements, including setting, characterization, conflict, plot, theme, and literary devices, while developing the skills necessary to analyze texts and essays effectively.

Students will also strengthen their critical-thinking skills by examining literature within its appropriate historical, social, and cultural contexts. Particular emphasis will be placed on developing effective paragraph and essay-writing skills, including organization, supporting ideas, grammar, vocabulary, and mechanics. Grammar will be taught as a practical tool to improve students' written and verbal communication.

The course follows **Prentice Hall Literature: Language & Literacy, Grade 8**.

Student Expectations

Students are expected to arrive to class prepared to learn and participate. Students should bring the following materials to every class:

- Pencil case
- Water bottle
- Computer
- Notebook
- Course folder

Students may have **water or tea** during class. Other food and beverages are not permitted unless special permission has been provided.

Upon entering the classroom, students are expected to follow the instructions provided by the teacher, begin the assigned work promptly, and participate appropriately in class discussions and activities.

Textbooks and Course Materials

Students will receive worksheets and other learning materials either in printed form or through Google Classroom. Students will also be provided with a textbook.

Students are responsible for collecting their textbook from the designated classroom storage area at the beginning of class and returning it to the correct location at the end of class.

Textbooks must be kept in good condition. If a textbook is lost or returned in a condition that prevents it from being used by another student, the student's family may be responsible for the cost of a replacement textbook.

Assignments and Deadlines

Students are expected to submit all assignments by the stated due date.

If an assignment is not submitted by the deadline, a **0** will initially be recorded for the assignment, and the student may be required to attend WIN to complete the missing work.

If a student requires additional time to complete an assignment or assessment, it is the student's responsibility to communicate with the teacher **before the due date** and provide a valid reason for the extension request. If the teacher determines that the reason is legitimate, a new due date will be established.

If the assignment is not submitted by the agreed-upon extended deadline, the assignment will receive a **0**.

Earning Your Grade

Students' final grades will be determined using the following categories:

Category	Weight	Description
6 P's	10%	Students are expected to be Positive, Pleasant, Polite, Prepared, Punctual, and Productive in class.
Daily Work	25%	Includes daily classwork, activities, assignments, and participation in class discussions.
Quizzes	20%	Short assessments, generally consisting of approximately 5–10 questions, designed to assess students' understanding of recently covered material.
Progress Tests	20%	Summative assessments given at the end of each unit and covering the material studied throughout that unit.
Projects	25%	Formal writing projects completed throughout the year. Projects may include research, extended writing, organization, group work, and/or presentations.

The 6 P's

Students are expected to demonstrate the following behaviors consistently:

1. **Positive** – Maintain a constructive attitude toward learning.
2. **Pleasant** – Treat classmates and staff in a friendly and respectful manner.
3. **Polite** – Demonstrate appropriate manners and respect for others.
4. **Prepared** – Arrive with the required materials and be ready to learn.
5. **Punctual** – Arrive to class and submit work on time.
6. **Productive** – Use class time effectively and make a consistent effort.

Projects

A formal writing project will generally be assigned at the end of each unit. Projects may require several lessons to complete, and students are expected to demonstrate grade-appropriate grammar, vocabulary, organization, and writing skills.

Depending on the project, students may also be required to conduct research, work collaboratively, prepare a presentation, or complete work outside of class.