***Grade 8 Literacy***

*Ms. K. Harquail*

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Tentative Schedule

**Overview**

This year students will explore Language arts and Social Studies content during their 90 minute Literacy block. In this class, students will investigate a variety of genres, both in reading and writing; and different themes social studies. Students’ reading and viewing, writing and representing, speaking and listening, Social Studies knowledge and inquiry skills will be evaluated through a series of classroom activities and assignments. All of our course content, themes, assignments and assessments will adhere to the Grade 8 Reading and Writing Achievement Standards, the Grade 8 Speaking and Listening Curriculum outcomes, as well as the Atlantic Social Studies Frame work.

**Planned Content will Include (but is not restricted to):**

* ***Letter writing – Personal***
* ***Examine concepts of Empowerment & disempowerment***
* ***Analyzing the different types and sources of Empowerment.***
* ***Internet research inquiry / descriptive writing***
* ***Independent Novel Study Unit***
* ***Literature Circle / Novel Study Unit***
* ***Research Essay / Speeches***
* ***Reader’s Theater / script writing***

**For this class you will need:**

1. Binder
2. A pocket folder
3. Paper
4. Writer’s notebook
5. Pencils – all writing is to be done in pencil except for editing/good copies.
6. Pens – reserved for notes, editing and good copies.
7. High lighters

* Every student is expected to have Independent Reading Material (Fiction or Non-Fiction Novel) with them every day. This could be brought from home or signed out of the town/ school and/or class library.

**FYI**

* Each unit will include a variety of assessments including tests; journals; written and oral assignments / presentations; and in class activities. All assignments are **mandatory** in order to pass this course.
* I don’t regularly give out homework, but if we don’t finish something in class, if a student is absent, they may be asked to complete the work at home. It is very important in this case that students complete the assigned work to avoid falling behind their classmates.
* Attendance is a very important component to passing this class. It is important to be in class every day. (See Attendance Policy)
* You are expected to come to class on time, prepared to work (will all your materials. IE: pencils, pens, paper, novel etc...)
* Students will read for 10 minutes at the beginning of 2-3 class / week, and therefore are expected to have a fiction or non-fiction novel with them every class. This will be incorporated into their final grade.

**Course Evaluations**:

* Students will be assessed using the new provincial rubrics / report cards. Assessments will be carried out throughout the year and will include many different types of assessments.
* This Syllabus is only a tentative outline... It is subject to change if the need arises.

**Communication:**

* In order to keep in touch more efficiently, I would like to use emails. It has been used throughout our building and is a wonderful, quick way to know what goes on in my classroom. I plan on using this email to let you know about events, assignments or projects, upcoming quizzes and/or other things that I feel are important. It is also a way to help the grade 8 students keep track of what needs to be done as they prepare for high school.
* If you agree to give me your personal email address, please include it in the bottom half of this form. When I have received most of the parents/guardians email addresses, I will send a little note to let you know it is set up.
* Lastly, feel free use this means of communication to get in touch with me at any time if you have concerns about anything in my class.

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Student Signature Parent Signature.

Parent email : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_