**English 8 Honors Syllabus**

Mrs. Hopkins

Skyline High School

*“I am a human being; nothing human can be alien to me.”* [***Terence***](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/t/terence.html)

**English Grade 8:**

In this course, we will encourage a love of reading, while seeking to develop strategies students can apply when encountering a difficult text and promoting mastery of both personal and formal writing. The program also emphasizes the importance of language structure and usage as these skills apply to writing and the importance of developing a working vocabulary.

This year, students will read and respond to a variety of texts, including narrative and poetic forms, as well as informational sources. Written assignments will include a variety of forms, including narrative, expository, persuasive and informational.

In 8th grade, we will focus upon the following objectives:

* Students will apply knowledge of word origins, derivations, inflections, analogies, and figurative language to extend vocabulary development.
* Students will read and analyze a variety of narrative and poetic forms.
* Students will read, comprehend, and analyze a variety of informational sources.
* Students will write in a variety of forms, including narrative, expository, persuasive, and informational.
* Students will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure, and paragraphing.
* Students will use interview techniques to gain information.
* Students will develop and deliver oral presentations in groups and individually.
* Students will analyze mass media messages and evaluate persuasive techniques used in the media.

**Materials:**

Students need the following items:

* Pen, pencils, highlighters – BRING TO CLASS EVERY DAY!
* Binder with lined paper divided into Literature, Composition, and Vocabulary BRING TO CLASS EVERY DAY!
* Writing Folder (will be stored in the classroom)
* Composition Journal (will be stored in the classroom)
* index cards
* post-its
* A “healthy” book for independent reading - BRING TO CLASS EVERY DAY!

**WE ALWAYS HAVE A SHORTAGE OF PENCILS, TISSUES, HAND SANITIZER. DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!**

**Expectations:**

Students are required to follow all county and school policies as listed in the Student Handbook. Students are also expected to adhere to the following class rules:

* Be Nice.
* Do your best.

**Class Requirements and Procedures:**

There are several things you need to be aware of in order to be successful in this class. I have included them below. Please familiarize yourself with these policies and procedures. If you have any questions about any of them, please feel free to ask.

Attendance: It is imperative that all students come to class regularly and on time. Excessive tardiness will be dealt with according to school policy (every third tardy equals a lunch detention). If a student is absent, it is up to him or her to acquire any missed assignments from me. All handouts and worksheets are kept in a binder at the front of the classroom. Tests and quizzes should be made up within a week of the last day of absence. If students need extra help completing missed assignments, they should make arrangements to meet with me.

Writing assignments: Students will write several essays throughout the year. They will be given ample time to complete them in class. However, if a student is absent or does not complete the assignment in the time allotted, the assignment will become homework. All essays will be kept in the student’s writing folder in class.

Book projects: Students will also complete several book projects throughout the year. These assignments will be based on a book of the student’s own choosing that he or she has read independently. A list of approved projects will be distributed several weeks before the due date for each project. Students may choose the project that appeal most to them or is most suited to the book read.

Warm-ups: Students are expected to enter class and begin working on the day’s warm-up immediately. The warm-up will be available to the students when they enter class. These activities will often be grammar or vocabulary assignments, but not always. Students should pick up a warm-up immediately upon entering the classroom and proceed to complete the assignment as quickly and accurately as possible.

SSR: Several times a week, we will participate in SSR as a class. SSR stands for Sustained Silent Reading. Students should bring a book of their own choosing (often the one they are reading for an upcoming book project) to read daily. If a student does not bring their own book, they may borrow from the classroom library, but no students will be exempt from this activity.

Achieve 3000: Our class will go to the computer lab weekly to use the web-based program that allows students to read and respond to nonfiction articles written at their own person reading levels as determined by a pretest. Students will receive grades for both their performance on weekly quizzes as well as written responses. This program can also be accessed at home at [www.teenbiz3000.com](http://www.teenbiz3000.com).

Grading Scale: Students will earn both formative and summative grades. will be graded using a total point system. Smaller assignments will be worth fewer points than larger assignments.

 A 90-100

 B 80-89

 C 70-79

 D 60-69

 F 59 and below

*I look forward to teaching and learning with you this year. I know this is going to be a great year.* *Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have throughout the year. I am available by phone or email and will respond as quickly as possible.*

 *Mrs. Sonya Hopkins*

shopkins@wcps.k12.va.us

 (540) 631-0366 ext. 31136

**Parent Communication and Support Form**

*By signing below, we agree that we have read the syllabus for Mrs. Hopkins’ English class, understand what is expected, and will work together to achieve success.*

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **Parent/Guardian Student**

**Please take a moment to provide the following information and return this form to school with your student as soon as possible.**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of communication (phone, email): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best time to call: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything else I should know at this time?

**Thank you for completing this form. The information you provided will allow me to communicate with you throughout the year regarding your child’s progress and performance in my class.**