

8th grade General English Syllabus

Welcome to 8th grade English at Rolla Junior High. English is the subject that helps you succeed in all other subjects; when you can understand what you read and then can write about it, you will be successful in school. This year we will read some classic short stories, poetry, a novel, and a play. This class also will introduce you to the basics of researching a subject and documenting your information.

The organizational skills and study habits you develop this year will prepare you for high school. Learn how to study and how to organize your work. You will have homework in this class. The brain has to be exercised, and homework helps you use your brain! Effort and commitment on your part will result in learning.

Classroom rules

1. Be responsible.

- Do your homework. Strive to earn good grades.
- Be honest. Do not cheat or copy. If you are unsure about whether cooperative work on an assignment is allowed, please ask.
- Ask questions when you don't understand. YOU are the person most responsible for your own learning.

2. Be respectful.

- Stay in your seat.
- Raise your hand when you want to speak.
- Listen when Mrs. Dalton or others are talking.
- Use school-appropriate language.
- Strive to act in a mature way at all times. Mature students do not taunt or harass others.

3. Be ready.

- Arrive in class on time. Be in your seat when the bell rings. (See the school tardy policy.)
- Bring your book, notebook, pencil, and completed homework.

4. Mrs. Dalton has the right to make any rule she pleases to establish and maintain order in her classroom.

Mrs. Dalton's Classroom Procedures

Here are some procedures specific to my classroom.

WHAT TO DO EVERY DAY:

1. Be seated right away.
2. Have materials out and ready to begin (sharpened pencil, notebook, textbook).
3. Begin bell work, you will have very little time after the bell rings to complete the work.
4. Have your assignment out and ready to be turned in.
5. Record your homework in your agenda daily.
6. Keep your seat, desk, and aisle clean.
7. Head your papers with your first and last names and hour in the upper right hand corner.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE ABSENT: Avoid absences. If you know you're going to be gone, ask for work in advance. Handouts that you missed will be placed in the Homework binder in the hanging file crate. Complete make-up work as soon as possible. Hand it directly to Mrs. Dalton. When you return from an absence, obtain an admit slip from the attendance office. Be sure to hand the admit slip to me. I generally leave homework assignments on the board for an entire week. Copy the homework from the board and get the notes from a classmate. For absences longer than a day or two, see the student handbook.

GUM: Although RJHS does not prohibit gum, I hate to see it in your mouth. Do not let me see it.

TAKING AR TESTS: Sign into the AR program with your own name and student number. AR tests can be taken before and after school, during library days, and when class instruction is finished and your work is completed. Honesty is expected at all times!

WHEN YOU NEED HELP OR HAVE A QUESTION: Raise your hand and wait to be called on. Please do not yell out in class.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: When announcements are made or the secretary comes on the intercom, be silent and listen.

COLLECTING PAPERS: In general, assignments will be turned in via My Big Campus. There will be times when Mrs. Dalton will collect papers. Hand in late work directly to Mrs. Dalton.

RETURNING PAPERS: After I grade your papers, I will return them via My Big Campus or place them in the bins on the cart. The papers in the bins will be passed back in class.

MY BIG CAMPUS: My Big Campus is the education version of Facebook. It allows students to ask me questions, ask fellow students for help, and upload assignments to me. It is NOT a place for general chatter that is normally found on Facebook. This site is strictly for educational purposes. I am excited that we, as a district, have this available to us! Parents are able to see at all times the discussions that are being held. You will receive more information on how to access and use My Big Campus when we have training in the computer lab. This will happen about two weeks after school starts.

DISMISSING THE CLASS: The bell does not dismiss the class; I dismiss the class. Leave the area around your seat clean.

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES:

Sudden sickness: Leave the room immediately and go straight to the nurse's office.

Earthquake, tornado, fire: Procedures are posted on the bulletin board and will be practiced.

YOUR GRADE: Grades are based on a weighted system. The assignments will be weighted as follows:

Tests/Projects 40%

Classwork 30%

AR/Quizzes 30%

I will offer extra credit work during each quarter, but not at the end of the quarter. If you want extra credit, complete the assignment when it is offered. The grading scale is:

95-100	A	89-87	B+	79-77	C+	69-67	D+	59 and Below	F
94-90	A-	86-84	B	76-74	C	66-64	D		
		83-80	B-	73-70	C-	63-60	D-		

Other tips for success in this class

- Start on a big project the day it is assigned. Do not wait until the last minute; you will have no opportunity to revise or rewrite your work. Late work generally will receive a 10% to 50% point reduction.
- Use your notebook/folder as a file for handouts and assignments. This is important! You will need some of your old work to complete new assignments.
- Take notes in class. This will make your writing assignments easier to complete.
- Use your home computer to complete assignments whenever possible. If necessary, schedule time to use the school computers before and after school. I recommend that students without home computers purchase a flash drive to store their documents. **Type your homework in 12-point Arial or Times Roman, double-spaced.** I will not read fancy typefaces! Use the computer to check your spelling and grammar.
- Ask questions when you don't understand, or take the initiative and research something you do not know. This includes vocabulary. YOU are the person in charge of your own learning.
- Bring an AR book to class with you. If you have completed all your homework during class time, you should have a book to read. We do not have regular library days in this class, so you may have to go to the library on your own time. During class, I will allow you to go to the library after the lesson and after you have finished your homework.
- **Maximum effort and a positive attitude are keys to success!**
- **Call or e-mail if you or your parents have any questions or need help.** My school telephone is 458-0130, ext.13124. Your parents may leave a message or call during my planning period 1st hour, 8:00 - 8:53 a.m. Please feel free to use my school e-mail to contact me with any concerns: cdalton@rolla.k12.mo.us. I generally respond to e-mails within 24 hours, so if you or your parents do not receive a response from me in that time period, please call. E-mail is the fastest way for you to contact me.

8th grade English quarter-by-quarter

**** Note**** This is just a brief outline of information taught. Instruction will not be limited to what is listed.

All Quarters:

AR goals will be individually assigned. One point of extra credit will be awarded for each point over on your goal (maximum extra credit is 20 additional points).

- Vocabulary Instruction, tests to be given on a weekly/biweekly basis
- Grammar instruction

1st quarter:

- Write paragraphs and personal essays.
- Read selected non-fiction short stories. Read the play *Diary of Anne Frank*.
- Research information will be taught periodically through the quarter.

2nd quarter:

- Read selected short stories.
- Essay to be announced at a later time.
- Research information will be taught periodically through the quarter.

3rd quarter:

- Read and write poetry, concentrating on use of figurative language.
- Read selected short stories.
- Essay to be announced at a later time.

4th quarter:

- Review for and take the 8th grade MAP test.
- Read the novel *The Breadwinner* by Deborah Ellis.
- Research project
- Essay to be announced at a later time.

Please sign and return this page.

We have read the syllabus provided by Mrs. Dalton and understand the classroom rules and expectations for general English and/or accelerated English class.

Parent signature/date

Student signature/date

Student's PRINTED name