**Snake River Junior High**

**8th Grade Language Arts**

This class will be focusing on literature, writing, and grammar. The literature program is based on a strong emphasis in reading-writing connections. This program encourages the students to build lifelong friendships with books and serves as a focus for developing all language arts skills. Vocabulary and word acquisition skills, literary skills, reference, and study skills are emphasized as well.

The study of English grammar acquaints the student with correct usage of the language. The writing program emphasizes the six-traits as well as different writing modes and genres. The students will integrate reading, writing, spelling, listening, speaking and most of all, thinking. We are going to have a great year filled with fun activities and exciting learning adventures. This syllabus provides guidelines that will help students to be successful in class.

**Curriculum:**

The reading anthology is an eighth grade Idaho standard-based textbook, ***The Language of Literature*** by McDougal Littell, a Houghton Mifflin Company. ***Language Network*** is another textbook by McDougal Littell we will be using daily. It is also an eighth grade standard- based textbook that presents a blend of literature, writing, and grammar. Assessments will be created using the ancillary software and materials provided by McDougal Littell and by the teacher of the class.

Students will also be completing units on the following novels during the year:

*Chasing Lincoln’s Killer*, by James L. Swanson

*Ender’s Game,* by Orson Scott Card

*The House of the Scorpion*, by Nancy Farmer

*Anthem*, by Ayn Rand (Honors Class)

**Classroom Expectations:**

At Snake River Junior High School, the administrators and faculty believe these four things are what make students successful both academically and socially.

**Respect,** for yourself, your classmates, and your teacher.

**Responsibility,** you are responsible for your learning and for knowing and living by the rules of conduct at our school.

**Readiness,** be ready to go to work when you enter class, your tardy if you’re not in your desk when the bell rings. Be ready to work the entire class, right up until the bell rings.

**Relationship,** we want you to develop a lifelong relationship with learning, with your classmates, and with your teachers.

**Consequences:**

At Snake River Junior High School, the faculty follows a school-wide discipline plan.

1. Teachers first give a verbal warning for inappropriate behavior.
2. Then students will be pulled aside and given either oral or written instruction if the behavior continues.
3. If the behavior still continues, students will be asked to move to a quiet area by themselves.
4. And finally, if the behavior continues you will be referred to the principal’s office.

**SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR CLASS:**

1. A one and a half inch three ring binder
2. Pocket dividers for the binder, at least 5 dividers
3. 1 packages of college-ruled loose-leaf paper

4. Plenty of pencils (2 must be sharpened before class begins each day)

5. Pencil pouch with holes to keep in binder for pencils, pens, expo marker etc.

1. 1 box of Kleenex
2. Black pen and a red pen for correcting
3. A flash drive, sometimes called a thumb drive. One gigabyte should be more than enough memory.

**GRADING:**

Assignments that are not turned in when the teacher asks for them are considered late. Students will attend after school zero lab until the assignment is turned in. Papers that are turned in without a name will not be graded and the student will receive a zero on that assignment. If a student is absent, they should check with the teacher for any work they have missed. Before turning in work, it must be labeled in the top left hand corner with the following information: first and last name, teachers’ name, class, date, and the name of the assignment. All hand-written assignments must be written in cursive on college ruled loose-leaf notepaper. Other assignments will be printed out or submitted electronically in MLA format.

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**FINISHED EARLY OR END OF CLASS PROCEDURES:**

Always bring a book to class or you may work on homework if you finish early. At **NO TIME** should you be out of your seat or distracting your neighbor, unless we are working in groups. When the bell rings you must remain working until the class is dismissed. You will not be dismissed until the room is restored to its proper condition with all textbooks and Chrome books are returned to their rightful place. We will talk about other classroom procedures in class. We are looking forward to working with each one of you! If you need any help at any time please feel free to ask us. **WE CAN’T HELP IF YOU DON’T ASK!!!**