

8th-Grade-Writing



Mrs. Murphy 2016-2017

Course Overview:

Students will gain the skills needed to be successful communicators and critical thinkers in school and the world. This will be done primarily as we synthesize, analyze, and communicate findings from multiple sources and texts. Our goal is to speak and write like scholars! Foundations of scholarly writing will be built as we use the 6+1 Traits writing model and standard MLA citation and formatting.

Three Simple Rules:

1. Cooperate with your teacher and classmates.
2. Respect the rights, ideas, and property of others.
3. Diligently carry out your student responsibilities.

Student Expectations and Responsibilities:

- Contribute to and help maintain the classroom learning environment by engaging in the learning, working hard, asking and answering questions, and removing distractions.
- Come to class PREPARED each day and keep track of your books, assignments, and other supplies.
- Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself. If it's not yours, don't touch it!
- Listen to and follow instructions the first time they are given.
- Start your work on time and allow enough time to finish.
- One person speaks at a time, and we track the speaker.
- Be honest in everything you say or do. It's worth it!
- Do your own work. Always. And turn your work in on time.
- Accept responsibility and consequences for your grades and actions.
- Show respect for the school and express readiness to learn by being uniform perfect!
- Work effectively during individual work time: you are quiet, in your assigned seat, not causing distractions to other students, working on the assigned task the entire time, and asking for help when you need it.
- Be a contributing group member: you are actively participating in any group assignment (NOT letting others pull you along), staying on task and keeping others on task, reasonable noise level, taking turns, being respectful, doing your part.

Texts We Will Use:

Write Source –Grade 8, The Book Thief by Markus Zusak, *Animal Farm* by George Orwell

QUICK REFERENCE

Mrs. Murphy's Email:

sandra.murphy@crownpointeacademy.org

Class Website:

<http://murphysclassesandclubs.weebly.com>

Infinite Campus Login:

Username: _____

Password: _____

Galileo Login Info:

Username: _____

Password: _____

Chromebook #: _____

Classroom Procedures:

• Entering the Classroom:

- **Do Now** – When the bell rings, you should *immediately* get to work on the Do Now. These are individual and will be completed in your Do Now packet unless otherwise noted. I expect instant, quiet work at this point in class. You have five minutes to complete the Do Now. We will share some of these, and you will always be expected to read what you wrote.
- **The First Few are Mine** – While working on the Do Now and for the first few (3-5) minutes of class, please don't ask questions. I promise to give you time to ask any and all questions (within reason ☺), but I need a few minutes to take attendance and get ready for class.
- **Give me Five (Preparation)** – Everyday, I will ask you to "Give me five" at which point I will check that each person has the five required items for class: **pencil pouch, binder, planner, skills book, perfect uniform**. You will hold up the items when called for and stand up if you do not have the item so that it can be noted.

• During Class:

- **Binder:** Organization is a key life skill that will help you be successful, so you will keep an organized 3-ring binder for this course. Your binder needs to include five sections: Do Nows, Grammar, Notes and Reference, Assignments and Practice, and Papers, Projects and Tests.
- **Hall Passes:** You only get five passes for the quarter. They may be used for the restroom, getting supplies from your locker, getting a drink etc. Use them wisely. Once they are gone, they are gone. Only one person is allowed out of the room at a time, so when you leave the room, take the hall pass (on a hook by the door) with you. Leave your opened hall pass sheet on your desk for the teacher to initial and date while you are out. You may not share hall passes with another student.
- **Seat Signals:** As 8th graders, I expect you to move about the class in a way that does not disrupt the learning environment or task at hand. Anytime you must get out of your seat, move to the back of the room and then over to whatever you need– do NOT walk across the front of the classroom. During independent work time, you may get up to do those things when needed. However, during instructional time (reading, lecture, board work, presentations etc.), you need to use a seat signal to use the restroom, get a tissue/hand sanitizer, sharpen your pencil etc. The signals are as follows:
 - **Bathroom/Drink:** Raise your hand and cross two fingers.
 - **Tissue:** Tug your ear.
 - **Pencil:** Hold your pencil in the air.

When I see your signal, I will nod to let you know you are good to go, or hold my palm up to ask you to wait. You may ask again in a few minutes.

- **Signal for Silence:** When I silently raise my hand in the air, that means I am waiting for you to be quiet. You show me you see and understand this by sitting face forward, feet under your chair, and hand in the air.

- **Passing In Papers** – When passing papers in during class, pass them to the left. When the folks in the left row have collected your entire row’s papers, pass them backwards. The last person in the far left row (desk closes to Mrs. Murphy) puts them in the turn-in bin for the class.
 - **Transitions and Attention Getter**– Transitions from task to task should take less than 30 seconds (more often 5-10) and will begin with a call and response clap. The clap is a signal for you to focus your attention back up front. You will show me you are ready by SLANT-ing (SLANT = Sit up, Look and listen, Activate thinking, Note key information, Track the speaker).
 - **Redo** – If you ever want to redo an assignment, come and see me. Assignments and essays can be redone and resubmitted on a case by case basis. (Test corrections will be whole class).
 - **Food, Drinks and Gum** – For the sake of keeping our school clean and beautiful, gum is simply not allowed in class. Period. No food or drinks (other than a sealable water bottle) are allowed either unless we have a class party or Mrs. Murphy brings treats ☺
 - **Mailboxes** - Completed work and papers you miss when you are absent will be filed in your mailbox. I rarely pass assignments back in class. Check your mailbox regularly and file the assignment where it belongs in your binder.
 - **Early Finishers** – If you finish early, you need to take responsibility for your learning. You have three options when you finish an assignment: read/write quietly, work on other homework (but a hall pass will be required for a locker visit), or complete one of the extra writing activities in the binder in the green crate.
 - **Independent Work Time:** When you are given independent work time for any assignment and especially for essays, the expectation is that you work INDIVIDUALLY, stay on task the entire time, not distract other students, do your best work, and ask questions when you are confused.
 - **Group Work:** When it comes to working in groups, students need to remember three important things: wait silently in your seat until ALL group assignments are given (no talking or moving until teacher says go), move to groups quickly, and sit silently when in groups for more instructions.
 - **Questions during work time?:** When you have a question during work time, please write your name on the board and continue working the best you can or sitting quietly until I can get to you and answer your questions.
- **Leaving the Classroom:**
 - **Planners** – You will be given time at the **end of class each day** to write in your planners. Homework will be posted on the 8th grade board. If you have no homework, you should write “No homework.” The box for “Writing” in your planner should never be empty.
 - **Exit Tickets/Reflection** – It is so important that we take the time at the end of each class to review and reflect on what we have learned. Every day you will turn in an exit ticket (your ticket out of class). The format of these will vary, but they must be completed (know that high quality is expected here) before you will be allowed to exit the classroom.
 - **“Try and leave this world a little better than you found it” – Robert Baden Powell:** As part of our exit routine, you will put books away PROPERLY on shelves, straighten your desk, picking up trash around your desk AND the rest of the room, and gather all of your belongings.

- **Dismissal:** Gather all end of day items and backpacks and bring them to last period. You will not have a final passing period. During driveline, students must be SITTING, either IN a desk (not on a desk) or on the floor. Phones are not allowed during dismissal and will be turned off in backpacks until called.

- **When You're Absent:**
 - **Daily Happenings** – Each day, I will post a blog on our class website regarding our daily happenings in class. It will also be printed and put in the “Daily Happenings” binder in our green crate. If you are absent, check here before you see me. Follow the steps on the “If you were absent” part of the post to get caught up with the rest of the class.
 - **Sample Binder:** To aid in organization, you can always check the sample binder in the green crate to see where papers go and what notes should be in your binder.
 - **Absent Work:** You have two days for every day you are absent to make up your work. If you miss a lecture (PowerPoint/notes) or a quiz, it is YOUR responsibility to schedule a time to make it up.
 - **Late Work:** Homework is late if not turned in at the beginning of class the day it is due (unless otherwise noted). One day late = 20% off, Two days = 40% off. Three+ days = 60% off up to the end of the grading period. After this, no credit will be given.

- **Other procedures and info:**
 - **One Copy Policy** - I have a “One Copy Only” policy when it comes to handouts. You lose it, you have three options: pay \$0.10 per sheet for another copy from me, print it at home/ at the public library from our class website, or handwrite neatly.
 - **Headphones and Music:** Occasionally, students may be permitted to bring their *headphones only* to class to listen to music while they work on assignments (electronic devices not allowed). I will post a sign outside the classroom on these days. If you don't bring them, tough luck (or use a hall pass). No headphone sharing. I reserve the right to revoke this privilege at any time.
 - **Grades:** Do Nows and Participation – 20%, Formative (Class work, Homework) – 35%, Summative (Essays, Tests, Projects) – 45%
 - **Class Dojo:** You can earn one point per day on Class Dojo by choosing to be an engaged learner (see student responsibilities and expectations). Points can earn you fabulous prizes in addition to the added learning you will gain, so work hard.
 - **Discipline:** Please...let's just not even go here, okay? Please understand – my job is to provide an opportunity for students to learn. If you choose to make that difficult for yourself or another student, I will give you the chance to fix it, but also have to make sure that it is possible. End of story. I will follow the same discipline plan as the rest of middle school for both class disruptions and disrespect and minor offense marks (gum, uniforms, tardy, and preparedness).

Middle School Discipline Plan

- **Step 1:** You will complete the “Action Plan” in an isolated desk in the classroom. You may rejoin the class upon teacher approval. Your action plan which will be e-mailed to the parent.
- **Step 2:** You will be removed from the classroom by the teacher and sent to the front office where the student should sit on the couch and wait for the teacher to admit them back to class or for the bell to ring. During this time, you will review your action plan and reflect on what is still proving to be an issue. Under the teacher’s supervision, you will then call home to a parent/guardian to discuss the action plan.
- **Step 3:** I will make contact with your parents, describe the situation, and schedule a meeting. You (the student) must attend this meeting along with any other teachers that want to contribute to the solution. Depending on the situation, Mr. Ouweneel or Mrs. Keyes may or may not be present.
- **Step 4:** Mr. Ouweneel or Mrs. Keyes will meet with you directly and you will serve an in school suspension. Parents will be contacted.
- **Step 5:** Further action will be taken according to the CPA Discipline Matrix. The student’s behavior is now a Level Two Offense, Third Infraction on the CPA Discipline Matrix. See the CPA Discipline Matrix for details.

Unprepared, tardy, uniform, and gum violations

- Students will only receive ONE warning for each offense. Marks will no longer going to be tracked collectively, but in each class.
 - 1 Mark=Warning
 - 2 Marks=Lunch Detention
 - 5 Lunch Detentions **in a single category (gum, preparedness, uniform, tardy etc.)** = 1/2 day In School Suspension