


Mrs. Davis - 8th Grade Language Arts

Syllabus and Class Expectations 2025 - 2026

 Hello! Welcome to new and returning students! My name is Mrs. Melissa Davis, and I will be your student's 8th Grade Language Arts teacher for the 2025–2026 school year.

It is my philosophy that all students are capable of success. I firmly believe that when the home and school work together, students thrive. I look forward to working with both you and your student this year!

Please check Infinite Campus regularly. It provides access to your student's grades, missing assignments, and class progress. If an assignment appears without a grade, it is considered missing. If it remains unsubmitted, the grade will become a zero.

Best Contact Method:

Email me at melissa.davis@franklin.kyschools.us. I do my best to respond within 24 hours. Please include your student's name in the subject line for email safety filtering.

Course Description

In 8th Grade ELA, students will explore a variety of literary texts, build grammar and writing skills, expand vocabulary, and develop reading comprehension strategies. Instruction is aligned with the Common Core State Standards and prepares students for the Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA) in the spring.

We use the Amplify ELA curriculum, which integrates reading and writing instruction. Each 60-minute class includes a mix of whole-group, small-group, and individual work. While there is ample in-class work time, assignments may occasionally require work outside of class. Meeting deadlines is essential for success.

Textbooks and Chromebooks

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In addition to passages from online reading programs, we may read the following works of literature:

Unit A: Texts

- Excerpts from *Going Solo* by Roald Dahl
- Short excerpt from *The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls
- Short excerpt from *The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon* by Stephen King
- Short excerpt from *The Life of Pi* by Yann Martel
- Short excerpt from *The Princess Bride* by William Goldman
- Short excerpt from *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster
- "Fish Cheeks" by Amy Tan
- "My Mother's Garden" by Kaitlyn Greenidge

Skills and Content

Topic & Theme: The craft of narrative

Reading: Notice the impact of author's craft and structure

Writing: Write a narrative about a childhood memory

Activity Highlights: Write personal narratives, workshop with peers, watch video author interviews

Text Features: WWII memoir and contemporary coming-of-age 1st person narratives

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Unit B: Texts

- Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave by Frederick Douglass
- Gettysburg Address
- "Song of Myself" by Walt Whitman
- Excerpt from John C. Calhoun's speech to the US Senate, 1837
- Speech excerpt: Frances Watkins Harper, 1857
- Speech excerpt: Sojourner Truth, 1852
- Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl by Harriet Ann Jacobs
- The Boys' War by Jim Murphy
- A Confederate Girl's Diary by Sarah Morgan Dawson
- Declaration of Independence
- EXTRA: Excerpt from Up From Slavery: An Autobiography by Booker T. Washington
- EXTRA: Excerpt from "The claims of the Negro, ethnologically considered: an address before the literary societies of Western Reserve College" by Frederick Douglass
- EXTRA: Excerpt from The Every-Day Life of Abraham Lincoln by Francis F. Brown

Skills and Content

Topic & Theme: The meaning of "all men are created equal"

Reading: Evaluate the argument and specific claims in a narrative text

Writing: Analyze how authors use language to make a case for liberty and equality

Activity Highlights: Emancipation Quest, watch dramatic readings, deliver abolitionist speech

Text Features: 19th century language and syntax, complex rhetorical styles

Unit C: Texts

- Gris Grimly's Frankenstein by Mary Shelley and Gris Grimly
- Excerpts from Frankenstein; or the Modern Prometheus by Mary Shelley
- Excerpt from Genesis 2, Revised Standard Version
- "Frankenstein (1931) A Man-Made Monster in Grand Guignol Film Story"
- "Prometheus" Heroes, Gods and Monsters of the Greek Myths by Bernard Evslin
- Excerpts from The Innovators by Walter Isaacson
- "The Tables Turned" by William Wordsworth
- Excerpt from Letter 8 in A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains by Isabella L. Bird
- "Debate on the Frame-Work Bill, in the House of Lords" by Lord Byron
- "All Watched Over by Machines of Loving Grace" by Richard Brautigan
- "Whiz Kid" from Steve Jobs: Technology Innovator and Apple Genius by Matt Doeden
- "Core of an Idea" from Steve Jobs: Technology Innovator and Apple Genius by Matt Doeden
- EXTRA: The Tyger" from Poems of William Blake by William Blake
- EXTRA: Excerpts from Benjamin Franklin: An American Life by Walter Isaacson
- EXTRA: Excerpt from History of US 8: Age of Extremes: 1880–1917 by Joy Hakim

Skills and Content

Topic & Theme: Creators vs. Creations

Reading: Apply abstract concepts to an author's portrayal of a character

Writing: Argue opposing claims about a character and resolve the contradiction

Activity Highlights: Write from a character's perspective, debate making creature a partner

Text Features: Gothic text in graphic form, archaic language, Biblical and mythological allusions

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Unit D: Texts

- Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare
- "Annabel Lee" by Edgar Allan Poe
- "Harlem," the prologue to the book Street Love, by Walter Dean Myers

Skills and Content

Topic & Theme: Introduction to Shakespearean themes and language

Reading: Connect characters' development to a conceptual framework

Writing: Choose between contradictory positions and argue with evidence

Activity Highlights: Perform scenes from the play, compare filmed performances to text

Text Features: Drama with Elizabethan language, inverted syntax, extensive figurative language

Unit E: Texts

- Holocaust: Memory & Meaning Anthology
- Excerpts from Shores Beyond Shores by Irene Butter
- EXTRA: Excerpts from Hero on a Bicycle by Shirley Hughes

Skills and Content

Topic & Theme: Factors that led to the Holocaust, and the response

Reading: Synthesize multiple accounts to develop understanding and empathy

Writing: Analyze the impact of propaganda and explain the response to unfolding events

Activity Highlights: Image analysis, watch video with survivor, discuss importance of remembering

Text Features: Poems, articles, memoirs, graphic novel, portrayals of sensitive content

Most assignments will be available via the Internet within Amplify or the Google Classroom. Students will be able to view all assignments and due dates from these online programs. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to join the Google Parent Portal to view assignments and to keep well informed of his/her student's progress. Also, to keep open lines of communication with your student, ask your student to log into Amplify or the Google Classroom and show you his/her completed work. Some students like to click the "Completed" button without completing the work. No submitted assignment means no grade.

Course Outline

We will be following the Common Core Language Arts State Standards for Eighth Grade.

Topics covered will include but are not limited to:

Reading Strategies	Reading Process	Writing Process	Effective sentence development
Descriptive writing	Narrative writing	Persuasive writing	Research Skills
Non-fiction literature	Science Fiction	Various Novels	Poetry/Elements of Poetry
Literary Terms	Affixes	Parts of Speech	Spelling/Grammar/Mechanics
Vocabulary development	Journal writing	Responding to Literature	
Expository/informative writing	Public Speaking	Effective Communication Skills (i.e. Listening, Speaking, Viewing)	

*Due to scheduling, this list is to be considered tentative and subject to change as needed. If you have any questions, please contact me via email any time.

Projects and Required or Recommended Readings

There will be at least one major project/ reading each quarter which may require some work outside of class, and may include a need to go to the public library, use magazines, newspapers, craft supplies, etc. A criteria sheet providing instructions and timelines for the project will be provided at the time the activity is assigned. If a project is late, or not turned in, parents will be contacted. In addition to projects, students will be reading and writing every day in class.

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Assignments

A minimum of one reading, response to literature, and writing activity will be assigned each week. These activities will be considered Formative Assignments and will be 75% of the student's grade. Formative Assignments are daily practice and cannot be made up or redone for a higher grade.

At the end of a unit of study, students will take a Unit Test or complete a project which will count as a Summative Assignment. If a student earns less than 79% on a Summative Assignment, it may be retaken for a higher score after the successful completion of a Reteach Plan. Students must ask for and complete the Reteach Plan to retake the test. There will only be one retake opportunity with the highest of the two scores being the final grade for that given assignment. Retakes for a Unit Summative may only be taken during the Term in which it was originally assigned and prior to the next Summative test.

There is no extra credit.

Grading Procedure

Franklin County Schools has implemented a grading policy that must be adhered to by all faculty.

Grading Scale:

Numerical Grade - Letter Grade - Descriptor

100-90	A	Superior Work
80-89	B	Excellent Work
70-79	C	Good Work
65-69	D	Fair Work
0-64	F	Unacceptable Work

Grades will be based on Academics and Commitment to Learning. Academic grades are Daily Assignments/Formatives, Projects, and Assessments/Summatives (Unit Tests/Projects) are weighted at 75% of a student's grade. If a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to obtain missing assignments within 2 days of return to school. Student's make-up work must be completed within the number of days missed, plus 1. Example, if a student misses two days, they have three days to complete their make-up work. Commitment to Learning scores are based on the adherence to E.L.K.S. expectations and are weighted at 25% of a student's grade: *E - Engaged, L - Leaders, K - Kind, S - Safe*.

Grade reports are issued every nine weeks and will be sent home with students. Guardians will be notified when report cards are distributed.

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✓ Classroom Expectations – What You Need to Know

In addition to the rules in the Elkhorn Middle School Student Handbook, here are some important things to remember in Mrs. Davis's Language Arts class:

- Wear your lanyard around your neck at all times. No exceptions.
- Be kind and respectful—to classmates, yourself, and all adults. No rude or mean comments about others will be tolerated.
- Come prepared every day! You'll need:
 - A charged Chromebook
 - A composition book
 - Notebook paper
 - Pencils
 - Your class binder
 - Wired earbuds (provided if needed)
- Work together! Be willing to help and cooperate with partners and groups during activities.
- No food, gum, or candy in the classroom.
- You may bring water in a twist-top, no-spill bottle. It must be clear water only and kept on the floor—not on your desk.
- Clean up after yourself—keep your area tidy and return materials where they belong before class ends.
- Stay seated at the end of class. I will let you know when it's time to leave.
- Be an active learner. That means:
 - Join in class discussions
 - Work with partners and groups
 - Try to understand the material—not just memorize it
 - Know that learning now will help you in your future!

If a student fails to comply with the above expectations or breaks any school rule as outlined in the student handbook, they will be subject to disciplinary action.

We the undersigned, parent(s)/guardian(s)/custodian(s) and student, have received the foregoing Syllabus and Expectations for 8th Grade Language Arts. We understand that we are responsible for reading this document and familiarizing ourselves with its contents. We further understand that we have the opportunity to ask questions of the teacher, Mrs. Davis, and have the expectations explained more clearly.

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Student Name Printed

Content/Period

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date


Student Signature

Date

Mrs. Davis - 8th Grade Language Arts Teacher/KUNA Advisor
1060 East Main Street, Frankfort, KY
502-695-6740

Mr. Luther - 8th Grade Language Arts

Syllabus and Class Expectations 2025 - 2026

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 - A composition book
 - Notebook paper
 - Pencils
 - Your class binder
 - Wired earbuds (provided if needed)
- Work together! Be willing to help and cooperate with partners and groups during activities.
- No food, gum, or candy in the classroom.
- You may bring water in a twist-top, no-spill bottle. It must be clear water only and kept on the floor—not on your desk.
- Clean up after yourself—keep your area tidy and return materials where they belong before class ends.
- Stay seated at the end of class. I will let you know when it's time to leave.
- Be an active learner. That means:
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Student Name Printed

Content/Period

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Mr. Luther - 8th Grade Language Arts Teacher
1060 East Main Street, Frankfort, KY
502-695-6740

English Language Arts 8

Kate Osterloh



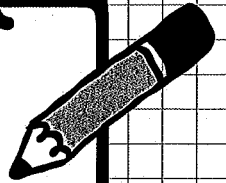
About Me

Hi, all! I'm thrilled to be your ELA teachers this year. This is my 25th year in education. I have been at EMS for 21 years, and consider it my home away from home.

When I'm not here, I'm at home with my husband, 2 kids, and THREE dogs. Yes, we are crazy. I also direct theater both here and at FCHS.

Can't wait for a great year!

Units of Study



- ☐ Frankenstein (Novel)
- ☐ Romeo & Juliet (play)
- ☐ Frederick Douglass (non-fiction)
- ☐ The Holocaust (memoir, NF)
- ☐ On-Demand Writing

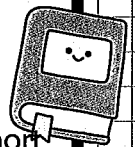
Grading Policy

I will follow the EMS Grading Policy, which can be found in the EMS Parent Manual.

The biggest one I want students and parents to focus on is: retakes are only allowed if the student makes a 79% or below on the original test. **THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH A B.**

That is not saying you can't earn an A, but you have to work for it.

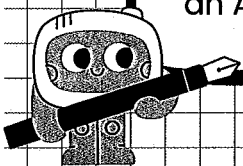
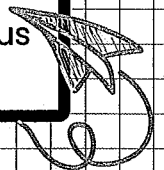
Assessments



Assessments will occur as needed. They will include multiple choice, short answer, extended responses, essays and on-demand writing, along with various formative assessments throughout the units.

Contact

kate.osterloh@franklin.kyschools.us



8th Grade Math

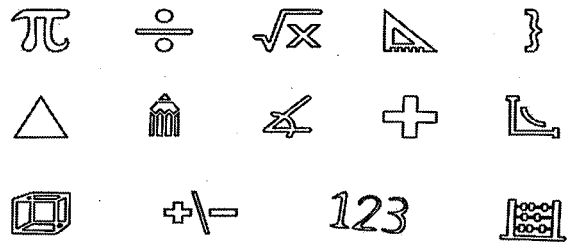
Mrs. Laura B. Branham

Room 137

School Number: (502) 695-6740

Email: laura.branham@franklin.kyschools.us

Planning: 1st Period (8:45 - 9:45)



We will use the 8th Grade Mid School Math Curriculum.

Units:

- Unit 1a: Slopes and Intercepts
- Unit 1b: Interpret Scatter Plots
- Unit 2: Linear Equations
- Unit 3a: Multiple Representations of Functions
- Unit 3b: Data, Graphs, and Tables
- Unit 4a: Big and Small Numbers
- Unit 4b: Data Explorations
- Unit 5a: Shape, Number, and Expressions
- Unit 5b: Pythagorean Explorations
- Unit 6a: Transformational Geometry
- Unit 6b: Cylindrical Investigations

Daily Materials

- Charged Chromebook
- Binder and paper
- Pencil
- MSM Class Workbook (will be provided)

*It is the students responsibility to have their materials with them, **before** class starts, every day.*

School Expectations



- Be ENGAGED in Learning
- Be LEADERS in the classroom and community
- Be KIND to self and others
- Be SAFE at all times

School Grading Policy

Grade Calculations:

- **Academic Grades: 75 % of grade**
 - Formatives → classwork
 - 10 points each
 - Will be completed throughout the units to check for understanding
 - Summatives → tests/projects
 - 100 points each
 - Every unit will have at least ONE summative
- **Commitment to Learning: 25 % of grade**
 - Engaged in Learning (5 pts/week)
 - Leaders in Our Community (5 pts/week)

Late Work:

- Work not turned in will be marked "M" or missing, which calculates as a zero.
- All late work must be turned in within a week of the due date in order for grade to be updated

Retake Information:

- Students may request a retake for a summative assessment if:
 - The original score is 79% or below
 - All formatives from the unit are complete
 - Student completes relearning plan
 - Retake occurs before the next unit summative
- Only **ONE** retake is allowed per summative

Academic Honesty Policy:

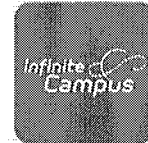
- Academic dishonesty will result in serious consequences- from 0 on work, to ISS.

Please see new grading policy for further information!

Infinite Campus

All grades for this class will be input into Infinite Campus- only go to Infinite Campus for grades!

Please make sure that you have your IC log in to access grades. This will ensure that final grades are not a surprise.



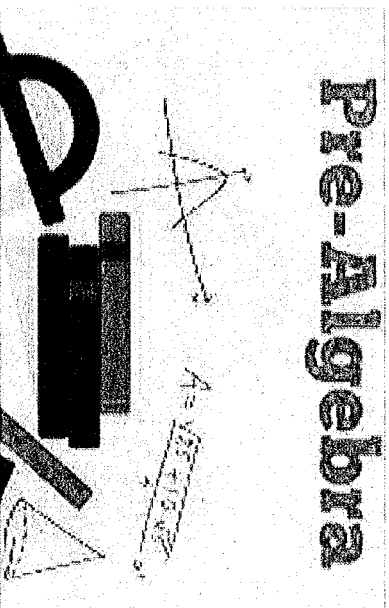
Other Important Policies

Please make sure that you have read through and know the following policies in order to be successful at school:

- Cell Phone Policy
- Dress Code
- Grading Policy
- PBIS Rewards System
- Use of Technology/Chromebook Policy
- Parent Handbook

8th GRADE

Pre-Algebra



Contact:

Ms. Zhenhua Sun

Room: 140

Phone: (502) 695-6740

zhenhua.sun@franklin.kyschools.us

Planning:

1st Period (8:45 - 9:45)

Unit

Unit 1a: Slopes and Intercepts

Unit 1b: Interpret scatter Plots

Unit 2: Linear Equations

Unit 3a: Multiple representations of Functions

Unit 3b: Data, Graphs, and Tables

Unit 4a: Big and Small Numbers

Unit 4b: Data Explorations

Unit 5a: Shapes, Numbers and Expressions

Unit 5b: Pythagorean Explorations

Unit 6a: Transformational Geometry

Unit 6b: Cylindrical Investigations

EXPECTATIONS & POLICIES

Beginning of class ☐ Please begin your Test Trainer practice quietly on your Chromebook.

During class ☐ Be an active participant in your learning. Listen, collaborate, take notes, and ask questions.

End of class ☐ Please put items

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Please know that any kind of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated under any circumstances. This kind of behavior will result in failure of the assignment, a disciplinary referral, and/or parent contact.

If you have questions about how to complete an assignment, just

ask! ☺

ASSESSMENT & GRADES

Grades will be updated weekly in IC. Here are the assignment types you may expect:

- ✓ Summative Assessments
- ✓ Formative Assessments
- ✓ Test Trainer
- ✓ Practice Printables
- ✓ Simulation Trainer

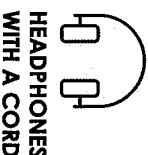
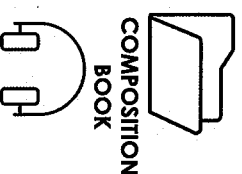
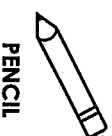
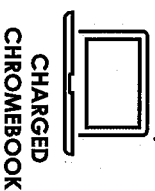
MISSING WORK: It is your responsibility to check IC when you are absent. Check the "Daily Agenda Slides" for assignments posted for that day. Missing work will have a grade value of "0" until turned in. It will be documented as an "M" in the gradebook.

LATE WORK: You'll learn best when you turn in work on time. Due dates apply in the real-world. Per district policy, you have five days to complete work after an absence.

If you have questions, please email me.

MATERIALS & IMPORTANT INFO

Please bring the following to class daily, unless otherwise notified:



GOOGLE CLASSROOM We

will utilize Google Classroom. You must "join" my class by going to classroom.google.com and enter this code.

E - Engagement

L - Leadership

K - Kindness

S - Safe

WORLD HISTORY

2025-26 Syllabus*

*Subject to change by instructor

Instructor: LeAnn Courtney

Email: leann.courtney@franklin.kyschools.us

- Please keep in mind that emailing is not the same as texting. When emailing a teacher, students should write in complete sentences, use proper grammar, and spell check!
- Students and parents are welcome to email me outside of school hours as questions or concerns arise. I will respond on the following work day.

Extra Help: I am available to help students 8:00-8:30 most mornings. Occasionally, I do have a morning meeting or parent conference, so it is helpful if you let me know on the previous day that you plan to come so that I can be sure to be in the classroom. However, always feel free to stop by during this time!

Course Outline:

- I. Colonization and Revolution
- II. Foundations of Government
- III. Westward Expansion
- IV. Civil War and Reconstruction
- V. KSA Review

Text: *World History Interactive*, SAVAS, 2023. We have a class set of textbooks and students have online access to a digital copy of the textbook.

Course Skills: Students will develop historical inquiry methods of questioning and investigating historical events and then use evidence to communicate and analyze historical claims. During this process, students will analyze many primary and secondary sources and develop writing skills.

Class Activities: In order to keep class interesting and enjoyable (Yes, a social studies class can be, dare I say it.....enjoyable!), we will do many different types of class activities. The following are examples of some of the activities that will take place: collaborative work, simulations, skill builders, writing, note-taking, problem-solving, projects, and perhaps most importantly, discussions. I expect that every student will participate in class by contributing to discussions and activities through active participation, asking questions, and completing all assignments!

Class Materials: 1-inch binder to be used for this class only
Dividers & filler notebook paper
pencils
earphones compatible for use w/ Chromebook

**Please donate a
box of tissues for
class use.
Thank you!**

Students are expected to be honest in ALL of their work. Unless otherwise stated, assignments are individual work. ALL instances of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to plagiarism, copying, using generative AI without permission, or any form of cheating, will result in a zero for the assignment. If a second person is involved, that person will also receive a zero for the assignment. Parents of all parties involved will be contacted.

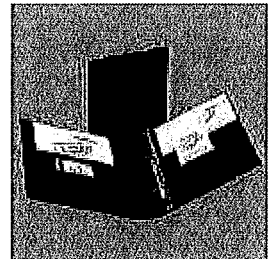
Notebook (3-ring Binder) Guidelines:

1. Most class assignments will go in your notebook. Bring your notebook to class every day.
2. Notebooks will have a table of contents that you will be responsible for updating.
3. Notebook Grading - Notebooks will be graded at the end of each unit, but individual assignments are due on the date stated.

On-going homework: Students should study class notes/assignments nightly. Remember, ultimately your goal is not to simply *do* the work, but is to *LEARN* the material.

Make-up Work Policy: We will adhere strictly to the FCPS make-up work policy:

- "When students return to school following an absence, they shall bring a written or electronic note signed by their parent or doctor/medical excuse which specifies the reason for the absence within five (5) school days."
- "Students in grades 4-12 shall be encouraged to do all make-up work missed due to an absence. However, unless they have obtained consent of the Principal, daily work will not be counted as a



grade if the absence is unexcused."

- "Tests and major projects are to be made up to demonstrate learning."
- "Students shall be responsible for contacting teachers concerning make-up work after returning to school."
 - Class & Homework Assignments: These will be listed on google classroom.
 - Tests & Quizzes: These will also be listed in the make-up work binder and on my website. If an assessment was given, the student should approach Mrs. Courtney to schedule a time before school, after school, or during REACH to make up the assessment within the allotted days. STUDENTS WILL NOT RECEIVE CREDIT FOR ASSESSMENTS NOT MADE UP WITHIN THE ALLOTTED DAYS.
 - As field trips and other school-sponsored events are not considered absences, students should request work ahead of time and be prepared to submit missed work upon return. For assessments, students should arrange to take the assessment prior to the absence.
- "Students' make-up work must be completed within the number of days missed, plus one (1). For example, if a student misses two (2) days, s/he has three (3) school days to complete their make-up work."

Note: Absences due to suspensions are classified as unexcused absences.

Work Submission and Late Work Policy:

- Unless otherwise stated, assignments should be hand-written by the student as opposed to typed since studies show you are more likely to process and retain information if you hand-write it. (See "Attention, Students: Put Your Laptops Away" at npr.org and "Handwriting vs typing: is the pen still mightier than the keyboard?" at theguardian.com.) Work should be in blue/black ink or pencil, in the student's own handwriting, neat, legible, and free from doodling.
- Unless otherwise stated, assignments are due at the START of class on the date specified.
- Chromebook/Computer/Printer issues are not acceptable excuses for late work. Plan ahead. (There is free printing in the media center!)
- Feel free to email me questions, but unless I specifically request electronic submission, do not submit assignments by email.
- LATE WORK POLICY: If a student does not submit their assignment when due, the student has 3 days to submit the assignment for 75% credit. If the student fails to submit the assignment within 3 days, THE STUDENT WILL RECEIVE A ZERO. The Late Work Policy applies to all types of assignments, including online submissions, unit notebooks, and projects.*

* Occasionally, due to the nature of a class or homework assignment, an assignment may not be submitted late.

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Expectations:

1. Noise: Use appropriate language and voice levels in the classroom and wait to be called on before speaking.
2. Movement: Remain seated during class, especially at the start & end of class and during direct instruction.
3. Treat all individuals with respect.
4. If your behavior is corrected, respectfully follow all directions on the first request.

Consequences of Choosing to Not Follow Behavioral Expectations:

1st Infraction - Warning

2nd Infraction - Warning OR in-class consequence (ex. new seat/isolated work/remain after class, etc.)

3rd Infraction - Conference with teacher

Subsequent Infractions - Referral to administration

****Severe violations (bullying, blatant disrespect, etc.) may result in direct consequences from an administrator.**

TECHNOLOGY USE POLICY FOR MRS. COURTNEY'S CLASS

Expectations:

1. Students have their charged Chromebook each day in class. Students may not interrupt class by moving to find an outlet/get a charger from a friend/etc. Additionally, assignments will not be modified for students without a working Chromebook; i.e., no Chromebook on a quiz day will result in a zero on the quiz.
2. Students may only use Chromebooks when authorized by Ms. Morrell.
3. During directions, Chromebook lids are to be lowered/closed.
4. Students may only be on teacher-authorized websites.
5. Technology use in class is solely for academic purposes.

Violation of the above expectations will result in the following consequences:

1st violation: warning

2nd violation: warning

3rd violation: detention

- Subsequent violations: detention and no technology may be used in class for an extended period of time
- Additionally, the use of technology to cheat and/or plagiarize will result in a zero on the first and any subsequent occurrences. When creating Google documents from online materials, take extra care to put material in your own words and cite sources; i.e., do not simply copy and paste without giving proper credit.
- The above consequences are for violating Ms. Morrell's classroom policies. Students must also adhere to FCHS & FCPS Acceptable Use Policies. (AUP). Please note, assignments requiring technology will NOT be modified for students who have lost technology-use privileges.

CLASS PROCEDURES

1. Start of class:
 - o Tardy Policy: Students must be in their seats with all materials ready.
 - o Immediately and quietly complete the day's "bell ringer."
2. Be attentive and actively participate in class each day. No sleeping in class, doing hair/make-up, writing notes to friends, or working on assignments for other classes. Remember, participation counts as 5% of your grade!
3. Remain seated during class, especially during teacher instruction. Do not get up to sharpen pencils, throw things away, etc. while Mrs. Courtney is addressing the class. These things should be done at the start or end of class.
4. End of class: Do not pack up early. Remain seated until the bell rings.
5. Food and Drink Policy: Per FCHS policy, only water is allowed in classrooms.

Bathroom

You will receive 10 bathroom passes to use during the 9-week grading period. This means:

- You can use the bathroom up to 10 times during class over these 9 weeks.
- Each time you leave the room for the bathroom, you must use one of your passes.
- Once you've used all 10 passes, you'll need to wait until the next 9-week period to receive a new set, unless special arrangements are made (such as for medical needs).
- Any unused passes at the end of the 9 weeks may be turned in for a small reward, or other incentives (if your teacher allows).

Why this policy?

This helps minimize class disruptions, encourages responsibility, and still gives you flexibility when you need to go.

Permission to View Films:

Throughout the school year there will be opportunities for us to view films that have a direct relation with the content we are covering in this class. These films may include short clips or full-length movies. These films could possibly have the ratings of G, PG, or PG-13. By signing this syllabus you are giving your student permission to view the films shown in class. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

(Please detach this bottom portion, sign, and return to Mrs. Courtney.)

"I have read and understand the above conditions of this course."

(Printed student name)

(Student signature)

(Date)

(Printed parent name)

(Parent signature)

(Date)

Parents, please feel free to contact me anytime at leann.courtney@franklin.kyschools.us

US HISTORY

2025-26 Syllabus*

*Subject to change by instructor

Instructor: Jess Williams

Email: jessica.williams2@franklin.kyschools.us

- Please keep in mind that emailing is not the same as texting. When emailing a teacher, students should write in complete sentences, use proper grammar, and spell check!
- Students and parents are welcome to email me outside of school hours as questions or concerns arise. I will respond on the following work day.

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- I. Colonization and Revolution
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- IV. Civil War and Reconstruction
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Class Materials: 1-inch binder to be used for this class only

Dividers & filler notebook paper
pencils

earphones compatible for use w/ Chromebook
Book for silent reading

***Please donate a
box of tissues for
class use.
Thank you!***

GRADING POLICIES

EMS Grading Scale:

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
Below 60	F

9 weeks Grading Breakdown:

Academic Progress (Quizzes/Tests/Papers/Projects)	75%
Commitment to Learning (Engaged in learning)	25%

This balanced approach supports the development of both academic achievement and personal responsibility, reinforcing our commitment to learning. Please see the Parent Handbook for more information.

Students are expected to be honest in ALL of their work. Unless otherwise stated, assignments are individual work. ALL instances of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to plagiarism, copying, using generative AI without permission, or any form of cheating, will result in a zero for the assignment. If a second person is involved, that person will also receive a zero for the assignment. Parents of all parties involved will be contacted.

Notebook (3-ring Binder) Guidelines:

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- "Students in grades 4-12 shall be encouraged to do all make-up work missed due to an absence. However, unless they have obtained consent of the Principal, daily work will not be counted as a grade if the absence is unexcused."
- "Tests and major projects are to be made up to demonstrate learning."
- "Students shall be responsible for contacting teachers concerning make-up work after returning to school."
 - Class & Homework Assignments: These will be listed on google classroom.
 - Tests & Quizzes: If an assessment was given, the student should approach Mrs. Williams to schedule a time before school, after school, or during REACH to make up the assessment within the allotted days. STUDENTS WILL NOT RECEIVE CREDIT FOR ASSESSMENTS NOT MADE UP WITHIN THE ALLOTTED DAYS.
 - As field trips and other school-sponsored events are not considered absences, students should request work ahead of time and be prepared to submit missed work upon return. For assessments, students should arrange to take the assessment prior to the absence.
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- Unless otherwise stated, assignments are due at the START of class on the date specified.
- Chromebook/Computer issues are not acceptable excuses for late work. Plan ahead.
- Feel free to email me questions
- **LATE WORK POLICY:** If a student does not submit their assignment when due, the student has 3 days to submit the assignment for 70% credit. If the student fails to submit the assignment within 3 days, THE STUDENT WILL RECEIVE A ZERO. The Late Work Policy applies to all types of assignments, including online submissions, unit notebooks, and projects.*
 - * Occasionally, due to the nature of a class or homework assignment, an assignment may not be submitted late.

Extra Help

ESS is available on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and afterschool. You will fill out the form on the EMS website to reserve your spot when you need to come.

TECHNOLOGY USE POLICY FOR MRS. WILLIAMS CLASS

Expectations:

1. Students have their charged Chromebook each day in class. Students may not interrupt class by moving to find an outlet/get a charger from a friend/etc. Additionally, assignments will not be modified for students without a working Chromebook; i.e., no Chromebook on a quiz day will result in a zero on the quiz.
2. Students may only use Chromebooks when authorized by Mrs. Williams.
3. During directions, Chromebook lids are to be lowered/closed.
4. Students may only be on teacher-authorized websites.
5. Technology use in class is solely for academic purposes.

Violation of the above expectations will result in the following consequences:

1st violation: warning

2nd violation: warning

3rd violation: Referral

- Subsequent violations: detention and no technology may be used in class for an extended period of time
- Additionally, the use of technology to cheat and/or plagiarize will result in a zero on the first and any subsequent occurrences. When creating Google documents from online materials, take extra care to put material in your own words and cite sources; i.e., do not simply copy and paste without giving proper credit.
- The above consequences are for violating Mrs. Williams's classroom policies. Students must also adhere to EMS & FCS Acceptable Use Policies. (AUP). **Please note, assignments requiring technology will NOT be modified for students who have lost technology-use privileges.**

Permission to View Films:

Throughout the school year there will be opportunities for us to view films that have a direct relation with the content we are covering in this class. These films may include short clips or full-length movies. These films could possibly have the ratings of G, PG, or PG-13. By signing this syllabus you are giving your student permission to view the films shown in class. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

(Please sign and return this page to Mrs. Williams.)

"I have read and understand the above conditions of this course."

(Printed student name)

(Student signature)

(Date)

(Printed parent name)

(Parent signature)

(Date)

Parents, please feel free to contact me anytime at jessica.williams2@franklin.kyschools.us

CLASS SYLLABUS SCIENCE

Ms. Cosby

anndy.cosby@franklin.kyschools.us

| Grade 8 | Rm 147

ABOUT ME

This is my 14th year teaching and my 12th year at Elkhorn Middle School! I live in Lawrenceburg with my husband and two children. We have 2 dogs, a flock of chickens, and a couple of beehives. My education background is in biology and animal science. In my spare time, I enjoy riding horses, reading, hanging out with my bees, drinking coffee, and spending time with my family and friends.

EXPECTATIONS

- 1 Be respectful to everyone and their ideas.
- 2 Come prepared with materials and a positive attitude.
- 3 Participate actively in discussions & activities.
- 4 Follow all school rules and classroom procedures.

RETAKE POLICY

Summative assessments (tests) are allowed to be retaken one time, after completing the relearning plan (typically a study guide or something similar). All classwork must be complete before retake.

Projects can be redone based on feedback from the teacher.

Formative assessments cannot be retaken.

LATE WORK POLICY

Students are welcome to take incomplete assignments home to finish for homework. However, incomplete/late assignments must be turned in within a week of the assignment date. All late/missing work must be turned in a week before the grading term ends.

WHAT TO BRING

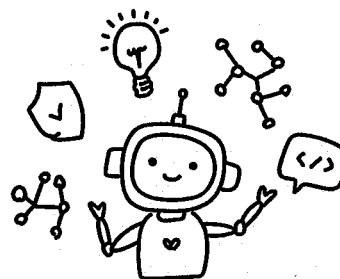
- ☐ 2 pocket folder with brads/prongs
- ☐ Pencils (lots!)
- ☐ Looseleaf paper

AI AND PLAGIARISM GUIDELINES

Any submitted assignments that are the same as another student's assignment will result in a 0 that cannot be made up.

Any student's work that is flagged for AI use of 40% or more will result in a 0 that cannot be made up.

Student-teacher conferences and parent contact will be made in these instances.



UNITS OF STUDY

Unit 0: Experimental Design and Scientific Inquiry
~3 weeks
Assessments: quizzes

Unit 1: Ecosystem Dynamics and Biodiversity
~6 weeks
Assessments: quizzes, project (in class)

Unit 2: Natural Hazards
~4 weeks
Assessments: quizzes, project (in class)

Unit 3: Earth's Resources and Human Impact
~6 weeks
Assessments: quizzes, test

Unit 4: Genetics
~6 weeks
Assessments: quizzes, test

Unit 5: Natural Selection and Common Ancestry
~5 weeks
Assessments: quizzes, test

Throughout the year, students will have writing assignments in each unit. These will range from a single paragraph to a full paper (6 paragraphs).

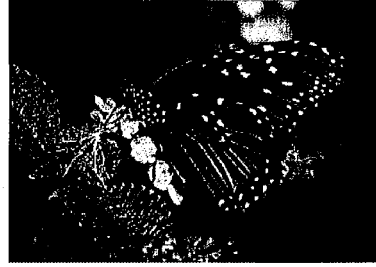
CONTACT INFO

I am here to help you succeed! If you have questions or need extra support, feel free to reach out during class, after school, or via email. I encourage guardians to contact me with any concerns or questions. Email is the best way to contact me (anndy.cosby@franklin.kyschools.us). Most correspondence will take place during my planning (8:45-9:45 am).

HOMEWORK

- Typically, the only homework your student will have is finishing any incomplete assignments from class.
- I do encourage students to take home their folders before assessments so they can review their notes and handouts.
- Homework every day: Go outside! Spend time with your people! Read a book! Ride a bike! Take a walk!

Elkhorn Middle School
2025-2026 Mrs. Willette - Room 146
(502) 695-6740 ext. 146
Deborah.Willette@franklin.kyschools.us



SCIENCE Syllabus

Dear Students:

I believe in you.
I trust in you.
I respect you.
You are listened to.
You are cared for.
I know you can handle life's situations with support from those around you.
You are VERY IMPORTANT to me!

Dear Parents and Students:

Semester description and objective: This school year we will be studying life science. There will be projects, real-world challenges, model building, observations, explorations, reading, writing, graphing and more! Students will engage in inquiry from start to finish, on their way to becoming 21st century learners, in preparation for high school, college, trade-school and workforce readiness.

I AM HERE FOR YOU!

I am available from 7:30 a.m. until school begins, or after school until 4:00 p.m. Please see me for any questions or help. I am here for you - **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOU ARE TOO FAR BEHIND; come see me early** for help, even if you're not sure you need it.

Be Prepared for Class

- **Attend school every day.** When you miss school, you miss an important lesson that leads to tomorrow's achievements.
- **Complete all homework on time.** If you do not, it will be difficult for you to reach the goals we set at the beginning of the year.
- **Bring all materials necessary for class with you: a CHARGED Chromebook, a notebook and pencil.**
- **Student Responsibilities and Expectations:**
- **Respect.**
 - Your peers.
 - Your teachers.
 - Your surroundings.
 - Yourself.

This is OUR classroom norm.

- **Be Prepared - with a CHARGED Chromebook DAILY, as well as your notebook and a pencil.**
- **Actively** participate in assignments and labs.
- Study notes and other material in preparation for tests. I will diligently work with you during class time to give you the skills you need to be successful. It is up to you, the student, to actively use these skills, both to practice, and to be successful in Science!
- Take excellent care of our classroom equipment - We are here to use it, not abuse it.
- Make sure you have enough time to complete tasks - time management is a learned skill that the most successful people work at every day - **EVERY DAY!**
- Maintain your Science Notebook in an organized manner - Your success, and grade, depend on it.

- Recording in your Science Notebook should occur in order, one assignment after the other. You will record page numbers in the Table of Contents for the location of the assignments.

Academic Honesty

- Every student is expected to do his or her own work and do it in good faith. This is expected in school, as it is in our lives outside of school.
- When we begin to do research, either out of books and magazines, or on the web, we will work on learning how to document the source of the information. This is key to success in high school and beyond - where you will receive zeros, or worse, if you do not record from where the information you use was obtained.

Grading (follows the Franklin County Schools policy)

Commitment to Learning (see official grading policy for details) 25% of grade
Summative Assessments (unit tests) 75% of grade

Failing Grades:

On regular tests & selected assignments, students must complete the relearning plan to be tested again to demonstrate mastery. Their highest score is the score that will be recorded in the gradebook. **Extra Credit IS NOT permitted.** Regular assignments offer challenges to help students improve grades on assessments.

Missing assignments receive a "0"

Grading Scale	
Grade	Percentage
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	65-69
F	64-Below

Attendance and Tardiness

- YOU are responsible for attending school every day.
- If you miss a day, **you are responsible for missed class work**, to be completed (posted in GC)
- The tardiness policy will follow the school's Code of Conduct.
- See the Official School Policy for daily schedule.

Expectations each day (and daily routine)

ABSOLUTELY NO CELL PHONES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

- Line up outside the classroom along the wall before class starts. **You are not allowed to enter any classroom unless you are invited in by the teacher.**
- Follow classroom rules.
- You will be expected to keep an interactive notebook in class. You must bring this every day you have my class. You will do most written assignments that do not require the use of the chromebook in the interactive notebook.
- Each day you enter my classroom ...
 - If a bellringer is on the screen, answer it in your interactive notebook.
 - If a bellringer is NOT on the screen, there should be instructions on the screen telling you what to do (have pencil ready, etc.)
 - I will post "I Can" statements each day on the board. The "I Can" statement reflects the science standard we will be focusing on.
- At the end of class:**
 - DO NOT line up at the door.** Stay in your seat until you are instructed to change classes.

- We'll end class with a reflection or some sort of review session, and if you have a homework assignment, it will be posted on the board.

How to Contact Me

email (best way): deborah.willette@franklin.kyschools.us
phone: (502) 695-6745 ext. 146

MUST HAVE FOR CLASS EVERY DAY

Pencil or Pen
Science Notebook
Your CHARGED Chromebook
(Helpful: A good eraser (Pentel High
Polymer white wrapper with blue is great)

A Final Note

*****The degree of success earned by the student will depend on commitment and ownership:**

If the STUDENT, PARENT/GUARDIAN and TEACHER work together, the student WILL experience success.***

I LOOK FORWARD TO A GREAT YEAR WITH OUR CLASS!

(Please return the attached SIGNATURE PAGE to me by
Wednesday, August 20.)



THANK YOU!!!



PLEASE SIGN and date BELOW to acknowledge you have read this Syllabus.

Student: (print) _____

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent: (print) _____

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Contact Information

Home phone: _____

Mom cell phone: _____

Mom email: _____

Dad cell phone: _____

Dad email: _____

Do you have computer access at home? _____ Yes _____ No

Do you have internet access at home? _____ Yes _____ No

Best Phone number to contact parent(s) _____

Thank you!!