



VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CHARTING THE COURSE

Department of Teaching & Learning
Parent/Student Course Information

Advanced English Grade 8
(LA1124)

Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selections and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school's guidance department.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is organized around the overarching theme of Challenges and reflects a variety of encounters with literature: non-fiction, short stories, novels and excerpts, historical fiction, narrative non-fiction, and media. Advanced English 8 provides the students with the opportunity to analyze and evaluate the social, cultural, and civic concerns expressed in the literature they will encounter. Major goals of the advanced eighth-grade program include: strengthening writing organization and written expression with an emphasis on expository and persuasion, reading comprehension and inquiry, critical thinking and creativity, and research skills along with developing effective communication through group discussions and oral presentations. The students will use the writing process to develop expository, narrative, reflective, and persuasive writing. Through writing instruction, students learn to analyze their own writing, and set goals to improve their composing and expression, and grammar, usage, and mechanics. The students continuously revise and edit their work as they build their writing. Additionally, they begin to read and write critically in response literature.

Writing, reading, discussion, performance based assessments, and classroom presentations require that the students move beyond literal recall of facts to an interpretation of literature with cooperative written response. Students are provided opportunities to examine various purposes for writing and to consider how writers make choices based on audience, purpose, and format. Throughout the year, the students continuously revise and edit their work as they build their body of writing.

Advanced extension options are provided throughout the school year within each unit. Deeper thinking is encouraged through these extensions which encourage students to examine higher level texts and make deeper connections. Some extension options include: adding research components, presenting or defending thoughts, revising writing to improve sentences/structure and deepen vocabulary, examining real-life choices and situations that influence choices and connect to characters, utilizing quoted material, developing literary critique and unique media messages.

At this grade level, students take the two Standards of Learning tests for grade 8:
English: Reading and English: Writing.

PREREQUISITE

Successful completion of Core English 7 or Advanced English 7 and teacher recommendation

OPTIONS FOR NEXT COURSE

Enrollment for the next English course should be based on student performance, teacher recommendation, and parent input. The courses available are Core English, Grade 9 and Advanced English, Grade 9.

REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOK

Hardbound and Online Access for *Holt McDougal Literature, 8*

Online Access for *Write Source Recharged*

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

The teacher may choose supplementary materials to extend and enrich the students' knowledge of course standards. These materials may be drawn from: supplementary novels, visual media, primary source documents, simulations, computer programs and other online educational resources.

8TH GRADE VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING: ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Visit the Virginia Department of Education website to access the English 8 Standards of Learning

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/english/index.shtml

READING SELECTIONS

In addition to poetry, short stories, dramas, and nonfiction texts, the following is a list of works commonly studied at this level. The literature selections are provided by the school, and the individual teachers select the most appropriate titles for the students.

Across Five Aprils, Irene Hunt

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl, Anne Frank

Anpao, Jamake Highwater

As You Like It, William Shakespeare

Beowulf, Anonymous

Best-Loved Folktales of the World, anthologies

The Boy Who Dared, Bartoletti

A Country Doctor, Sarah Orne Jewett

Crispin, Avi

Don Quixote, Miguel Cervantes (abridged)

Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury

Farewell to Manzanar, Jeanne Wakatsuki

The Fifth of March, Ann Rinaldi

The Giver, Lois Lowry

Hiroshima, John Hersey

Johnny Tremain, Ester Forbes

LeMorte D'Arthur, Sir Thomas Mallory

The Martian Chronicles, Ray Bradbury

Night, Elie Wiesel

Nothing But The Truth, Avi

The Old Man and the Sea, Ernest Hemingway

The Once and Future King, T.H. White

The Red Badge of Courage, Stephen Crane

The Red Pony, John Steinbeck

The Sea of Trolls, Nancy Farmer

The Skin I'm In, Sharon Flake

Sing Down the Moon, Scott O'Dell

A Tale of Two Cities, Charles Dickens

The Taming of the Shrew, William Shakespeare

To Be a Slave, Julius Lester

To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee

Who Do You Think You Are? Rochman/McCampbell

World Mythology: An Anthology of the Great Myths

And Epics, Donna Rosenberg

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Produced by the Department of Media and Communications for the Department of Teaching and Learning.
For further information, please call (757) 263-1070.

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To seek resolution of grievances resulting from alleged discrimination or to report violations of these policies, please contact the Title VI/Title IX Coordinator/Director of Student Leadership at (757) 263-2020, 1413 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23451 (for student complaints) or the Section 504/ADA Coordinator/Chief Human Resources Officer at (757) 263-1133, 2512 George Mason Drive, Municipal Center, Building 6, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23456 (for employees or other citizens). Concerns about the application of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act should be addressed to the Section 504 Coordinator/Executive Director of Student Support Services at (757) 263-1980, 2512 George Mason Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23456 or the Section 504 Coordinator at the student's school. For students who are eligible or suspected of being eligible for special education or related services under IDEA, please contact the Office of Programs for Exceptional Children at (757) 263-2400, Laskin Road Annex, 1413 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23451.

Alternative formats of this publication which may include taped, Braille, or large print materials are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. Call or write The Department of Teaching and Learning, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, 2512 George Mason Drive, P.O. Box 6038, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038. Telephone 263-1070 (voice); fax 263-1424; 263-1240 (TDD) or email her at Cameron.Vadersen@vbschools.com.

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