



English Language Arts 8 Communication Plan-Mr. Chaput
8H=Room 133; Period 1-Mon, Tues, & Fri; Period 2-Wed & Thurs

Course Overview:

In ELA 8 we will use the Provincial Outcomes found at [English Language Arts 8 Outcomes \(PDF 858.37 KB\)](#) focussing on the three aspects of a) Reading and Viewing; b) Writing and Ways of Representing and c) Speaking and Listening. Together we will build upon skills developed from K-7, to help students become literate 21st century citizens. As described by the Nova Scotia Department of Education:

“Literacy is the ability to receive and express messages to successfully develop and/or construct meaning through a variety of language processes; listening, speaking, reading, viewing, writing, and other means of representation. It is essential that learners develop their ability to make meaning in a wide range of forms in response to their audience and purpose.

Changes in society and technology continually influence how people use language to think, learn, and communicate., demanding that people use a wide range of skills and strategies to communicate effectively. The language arts curriculum engages learners as reflective, articulate, literate individuals who successfully use their primary language, in this case English, to think, learn, and communicate.” (NS Dept of Education Website, Aug 2020)

Communication:

- Most of your assignments and tasks will be on our **GOOGLE CLASSROOM** (CODE= ixtkkum)
- You or your parents/guardians can contact me through my email: colinchaput@gnspe.ca

Classroom Expectations:

- Attend regularly and be on time!
- Treat everyone & everything with RESPECT.
- Try your best at all times!
- Have an open mind!
- Ask a lot of questions and seek assistance regularly.
- Please turn off Cell Phones during class time, unless specifically requested.

Grading & Assessment:

There will be a variety of tasks in English 8 assessed using these three categories:

<u>Classwork 40%</u>	<u>Assignments & Projects 35%</u>	<u>Tests & Quizzes 25%</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• frequent, often daily tasks• includes formal and informal discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• weekly tasks, sometimes with partners or in groups• includes all <u>Portfolio</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• formal, less frequent, in-class assessments• usually at the end of a unit of study

	<i>tasks (refer to back)</i>	
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Other thoughts on assessment:

- Assignments are expected on given *due dates*; anything handed in late may be subject to penalty.
- Please notify me of any planned absences during the semester.
- Students who have an "*Unexcused*" absence during an in-class assessment (test, quiz, discussion, debate, presentation) may receive an automatic zero(0).
- Students who plagiarize any assignment will receive an automatic zero(0) and be referred to the Administration.

Materials:

Each student will be provided with a Writing Journal for brainstorming, responses and free-writes. It is important that students have the following with them daily:

- Writing instruments (Pens, Pencils, Coloured Pencils)
- Personal Electronic Device (Chromebook, Ipad, Phone) if possible (the school may be able to lend devices during class) and Earphones (again if possible)
*It is important that students NOT SHARE personal items this year.
**There will often be a choice to complete tasks Electronically or on Paper/Journal.

English 8 Readers' and Writers' Workshop:

In this class, you will have a lot of choice about what you read and create. Throughout the school year in English 8 you will be creating two portfolios that will comprise a significant percentage of your overall grade:

A Reading(Viewing/Listening) Portfolio
based on *your* analysis and responses to *your* choices, which will take a variety of multimedia forms.

Requirements:

These will be chosen by you (subject to approval) and will be in addition to the pieces we study together in class. You will need to keep a log of the titles and authors you read/watch/listen to.

Examples of what you will read, watch and listen to this year:

Novels -Short Stories-Poems

News Articles-Blogs-Essays-Photos

Commercials-Films-Videos-Documentaries

Podcasts-Audiobooks-Songs

A Writing(Speaking/Creating) Portfolio
consisting of various original pieces written and created by *you*.

Requirements

Each piece in your portfolio must have gone through various edits (self, peer and teacher) and be a publishable "GOOD COPY". You may have many rough drafts, false starts and abandoned ideas.

Examples of things you will write, perform or create this year:

Essays-Critiques-Reviews-Blogs

Short Story-Poems

Rants-Spoken Word-Speeches

Podcasts-Video-3D Models-Posters

***The Workshop approach is based on the idea that readers and writers need “chunks of time” and a lot of personal choice. Throughout the school year (usually 2-3 classes each week) students will work on both portfolios.**

Part of the time will be spent reading/viewing/listening and responding, and part of the time will be spent on various aspects of writing (brainstorming, drafting, editing, conferencing, and publishing).

There will be various “check-points”, specific deadlines and more details as the school year progresses.

Please sign below to indicate that you have read and understood the Course Plan.

Signature of Student

Signature of Parent/Guardian

**I am looking forward to working with you this school year!
Here’s to a challenging and enjoyable year!**

Mr. Chaput