**Elphinstone Secondary School**

840 Gibsons Way, Gibsons, B.C. Telephone: (604)886-2204

**English 8**

Room 120 Semester 1, 2016 Ms. Legault ([alegault@sd46.bc.ca](mailto:alegault@sd46.bc.ca))

Classroom website: <http://www.mslegault.weebly.com>

During this semester, we will focus on the following Big Ideas:

* Language and text can be a source of creativity and joy.
* Exploring text and story helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world.
* Developing our understanding of how language works allows us to use it purposefully.
* Purpose, audience and context guide the author’s choices in the construction of text.
* Language shapes ideas and influences others.
* People understand text differently depending on their worldviews and perspectives.
* Texts are socially, culturally, geographically, and historically constructed.

(from Ms. Telfer’s outline)

During this semester, the topics we may cover are:

* Spelling, Grammar, Editing Skills
* Paragraph writing
* Memoir writing
* Creative writing (stories)
* Novel study, lit circles
* And more

Required Materials:

* Pens (blue/black/red)
* Pencils
* Highlighters
* Flash drive (or gmail account).
* Two-inch, three ring binder
* Dividers (spelling, grammar, informal work, formal work, lined paper)
* Lined paper\*\*

**Classroom Expectations**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Attendance** **Lateness:**School is my place of work, and it is your place of work as well.  Therefore it is important that you come to class on time.  Being on time is a show of respect, and since school is your place of work you need to show respect to the people you interact with, aka myself and your classmates.  So, to put it simply, it would be better if you weren't late.  However, I understand that things happen (buses run late, you sleep through your alarm, etc), so if you are late please just enter the classroom quietly and without disrupting the lesson or your peers.  I understand that it will inevitably probably cause some form of distraction but the less the better so if you could be quiet when you enter the room that would be best.  If you are late more than three times in a row or chronically late (late more often than you are on time), we will be having a conversation about it. **Absences:**Sometimes you have to go away or you're sick and you miss class.  If you are aware in advance that you're going to miss class, please come speak to me about any homework that you are going to miss.  If you are sick, please come speak to me about what you missed.  This will show accountability and responsibility.  However, I will upload any notes we have taken in class to this website so you can make up the notes on your own time, but it is your responsibility to come speak to me if you are going to be away or have been.  Ultimately, the best learning experience will come from being in class, so it is important that you attend class as much as possible.  **Assignments Homework:**I will try my best not to give homework.  I will try my best to ensure you have adequate time to complete your assignments.  Any homework assigned will be due to an inability to complete it during class time. **Lateness:**I will give all assignments a due date and it is best for everyone that you give me the work by the due date.  The sooner I get all assignments in, the sooner the class will get them all back.  However, there is a point where the work needs to be handed back, and you will have until I hand back the rest of the assignments to get your work in without penalty.  I will try in class to give you forewarning of when I'm going to hand back assignments, but after that point you may lose a small number of marks for assignments handed back late.  If you need an extension on an assignment, please speak to me in person or send me an email.  I would much rather extend the deadline for you, than for you to send me work that is not your best.  If you know that you aren't going to be able to complete your work in time, please take acknowledge that and email me for an extension. **Plagiarism:**Plagiarism is absolutely, 100% unacceptable.  You will receive a zero for all work I find to be plagiarized, but if it is a first time situation I may offer you an opportunity to re-write.  In a university environment, if you plagiarize your work, you can be kicked out of the school and while it won't be that bad at this level it is better to learn not to while the consequences aren't as bad as they could be. **Swearing:**Swearing is prohibited in most assignments.  If the assignment is a piece of creative writing, then I will be a bit more flexible on this, but I believe that there are always alternatives to swearing that you could use.  If swearing is included in a story it should **only** be used in dialogue.  However, I do not want to see any swearing in essays or other written assignments. | **Classroom Behaviour** **Talking:**If I am talking, than you should not be talking.  If your classmate is talking, than you should not be talking.  If you are talking, than no one else should be talking.  It's a matter of respect. It is disrespectful to talk over someone or have a side conversation during a classroom discussion.  There are exceptions to this where you will be asked to talk in small groups or pairs, but if one member of the class is sharing in a class discussion or I am lecturing, I do not want to hear you chatting with your friends.  **Eating:**I don't have a problem with you eating in class.  Sometimes there are things that interfere with your lunch period and you don't get a chance to eat.  All I ask is that you don't distract the class with your meal.  Don't bring anything in that is particularly noisy (like a crinkly bag of chips) or particularly smelly (something with garlic) that will bring us into your meal experience.  You are not allowed to bring excessively sugary snacks into my classroom.  There will be no bags of candy.  Drinks like water, juice, coffee or tea are fine to bring into class but you are not allowed to bring slushies, energy drinks, or large bottles of pop to my class.  If I see them, I will take them and they will sit at the front of the room til class is done.  However, the most important thing is that you clean up after yourself if you bring food to class.  Any garbage or containers you brought into my classroom, you must take out with you.  I am not here to clean up after you and if I have to, I will ban food from my classroom. **Swearing:**I've heard all the swear words before, and it won't offend me if you swear by accident.  I might even swear by accident sometimes.  We're human and we make mistakes, but let's try to avoid it.  This is a professional environment, and so let's try to use professional language. **Cell phones:**You can bring your cell phone to class but I don't want to see it out unless I have asked you to look something up or to use it.  Please save your snap chatting or texting or instagramming for the time outside of class.   English class is not a time for Pokemon Go (I don't even care if it's a rare Pokemon), or other games on your phone or iPod. If you are working quietly you may listen to music.  However, during lectures and discussions I would prefer not to see any cellphones or iPods out.  You will get one warning to put it away, and if I see it again I will take your phone til the end of the class.  If it becomes an issue we will have to reevaluate the issue.  However, in certain situations, such as tests, we won't have a warning at all.  There should be no phones out during a test or a quiz. **Devices:** If you want to bring your laptop, tablet or iPad to class to take notes that is fine.  However, please try to keep on task.  This means no Facebook or random web browsing. **Respect:** To cut a long story short, most of these expectations come down to respect.  You must always treat your classmates with respect and hopefully they will return that respect to you.  Additionally, if you treat me with respect I will treat you with respect.  We want our class to be a safe place where people are not afraid to share their thoughts, ideas, feelings or work.  Please be supportive of your classmates rather than derisive or cutting.  Rude behaviour or comments will not be tolerated.   **Quizzes/Tests** **Quizzes:** I will try to keep all of my quizzes to one page double sided with no more than twenty marks total.  I feel this is a reasonable length. **Tests:**I will always try to keep tests within a length that they could feasibly be completed within class time.  If they cannot be, I will try to offer you a space where you can come to finish. **Plagiarism:**Copying from a classmates test or bringing in an unauthorized cheat sheet will result in a zero on your test/quiz. |

Student’s Job



Teacher’s Job



Dear Parents/Guardians,

If you have any information regarding your student that you feel it is important for me to know to help your student’s success, please inform me at your earliest convenience. I want all of my students to succeed and parental support is an important element of that. If you have any questions, comments or concerns about your child’s learning in this course, please do not hesitate to contact me either by phone or email. However, email will be the most efficient method of communication as I only teach part time and may not be at the school at all times.

Please take the time to go through this course outline with your student so you are both clear on my expectations and what we will be covering in this course.

Ms. Ashley Legault

English 8

[alegault@sd46.bc.ca](mailto:alegault@sd46.bc.ca)

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English Department Protocols

The Elphinstone English Department works as a team and has course guidelines regarding assessment and exams that all classes follow.

ASSESSMENT

**Informal and summative assessments** are made on a continual basis.

•Informal assessment includes smaller and practice assignments. This typically involves daily class activities such as grammar, vocabulary, and literary term exercises; pre-writing, rough draft, and editing assignments; comprehension and discussion questions; response journals and writing; and small quizzes.

•Summative assessment evaluates mastery of skills. This typically involves larger or cumulative assignments such as essays and narratives, unit tests, oral presentations, research projects, etc.

**The English Department uses cumulative marking**. This means that marks are kept in a running tally, not divided by terms. Mid-year report card marks are a “snapshot” of student progress at that time, hence late work handed in after the report card doesn’t change a previous report card mark, but will be reflected on the subsequent report card.

**All students will write cross-grade final exams.** “Cross-grade” means that all classes in a particular grade write the same exam.

The following chart outlines the mark breakdown for each grade level.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Grade | Informal (% of term grade) | Summative (% of term grade) | Term Marks (% of overall grade) | Final Exam (% of overall grade) |
| 8 | 40 | 60 | 80 | 20 |
| 9 | 30 | 70 | 80 | 20 |
| 10 | 20 | 80 | 80 | 20\* |
| 11 | 10 | 90 | 70 | 30 |
| 12 | 10 | 90 | 60 | 40\* |

\*The Ministry of Education sets these percentages.

**“The Fine Print”**

**Assessment and Assignments:**

Assessment of student work is to provide students, teachers, and parents with ongoing information of the progress of the student in meeting the required Learning Outcomes as prescribed in the English Languages Arts Curriculum. As English is an ongoing skills development course as opposed to a content based course, assignment completion in a timely fashion is necessary for ongoing assessment to be valid and informative. It is expected that students will do outside of classroom preparation for this course. This may include, but is not limited to, reading, editing written work, and research.

Please be aware of the following guidelines:

• For reporting purposes, assignment cut off dates must be set. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure these deadlines are met.

• As work submitted after the cut off date is no longer a valid assessment of student progress, late assignments will be accepted only at the discretion of the teacher.

• Work submitted after mark cut offs, **if accepted**, may be evaluated separately, using an alternate evaluation rubric, and may be used as a part of the summative assessment at the conclusion of the course.

• Students submitting assignments after mark cutoffs must be prepared to provide evidence to support authenticity of original work (first drafts, edited copies, outlines, research notes, evidence of readings...).

• **As learning is based on classroom teaching and discussions, regular attendance is essential for student progress and success. Extended or frequent absences may result in a lower grade.**

1. An **"I"** or **Incomplete** may be assigned to the student's report for a term if not enough work has been submitted to allow for a fair evaluation of student progress.

Please sign and date below and have your student return the signed slip to me.

### Student Signature

### Student Name (please print)

### Parent/Guardian Signature

### Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

### Preferred contact phone number

### Guardian email address