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| **English 8****Ms. Legault - she/her**Work Email: alegault@sd46.bc.caWebsite: <http://www.mslegault.weebly.com>Gmail: alegault@g46.ca |

English 8 focuses on developing your English skills, and the following big ideas:

* Language and text can be a source of creativity and joy.
* Exploring stories and other texts helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world.
* People understand text differently depending on their worldviews and perspectives.
* Texts are socially, culturally, and historically constructed.
* Questioning what we hear, read, and view contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens.

The units for this course may include:

* Grammar, spelling, editing skills
* Novel study (*The Outsiders*)*/*Lit Circles
* Paragraph/multi-paragraph writing
* Short Stories
* Poetry
* Drama (*A Midsummer Night’s Dream*)
* Creative Writing
* Mythology

Required Materials

* Three ring binder and dividers (see below for suggestions)
* A duotang with lined paper (for journaling)
* Lined paper
* Writing utensils: pens (blue/black, and red\*), pencils
* Silent reading novel
* School GMail account for Google Docs
* \*Lesser Used: colouring supplies, rulers, red pen, highlighters

Suggested Dividers

* Notes
* Informal Assignments
* Summative Assignments
* Lined Paper

**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.

At the end of the school year, there will be some format of final assessment of what you have learned over the course of the year. This may either be in the form of a final examination or a final project.

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

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| Grade | Informal (% of term grade) | Summative (% of term grade) | Term Marks (% of overall grade) | Final Exam/Project (% of overall grade) |
| 8 | 40 | 60 | 85 | 15 |
| 9 | 30 | 70 | 80 | 20 |
| 10 | 20 | 80 | 80 | 20 |
| 11 | 10 | 90 | 75 | 25 |
| 12 | 10 | 90 | 70 | 30 |

 **“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 cut-offs 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.

# **Classroom Expectations**

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| **Classroom Behaviour****Respect:** Essentially, be respectful and treat others the way you want to be treated. This class must be safe place where people are not afraid to share their thoughts, ideas, feelings or work.  Be supportive of your classmates rather than derisive or cutting.  Rude behaviour or comments will not be tolerated. ​**Talking:** If I am talking, then you should not be talking.  If your classmate is talking, then you should not be talking.  If you are talking, then no one else should be talking.  Listening is important.**Eating and Drinking:** You may eat in class, if you bring your food to class with you. Don't bring anything in that is particularly noisy or smelly. Do not bring excessively sugary snacks into my classroom.  Drinks like water, juice, coffee, or tea are fine, but you are not allowed to bring slushies, energy drinks, or large bottles of pop to my class.  They will be confiscated until the end of class.  I expect you to clean up anything you bring into my classroom. If I have to clean up after you, I will ban food, and drinks other than water, from my classroom.**Swearing:** Swearing is prohibited in my classroom.  I will call you on any language I hear. **Phones:**You can bring your phone to class, but it shouldn’t be out unless I have asked you to look something up or to use it. If you are working quietly you may listen to music; however, during lectures, discussions, and silent reading, I do not want to see any phones out.  If I see you using your phone I will take it until the end of the class.  If it becomes a recurring problem we will have to re-evaluate the issue, and it may be turned in to the principals. **Devices:** If you want to bring your laptop, or tablet to class to write assignments/take notes that is fine.  However, you must keep on task.  If you are off task, you will not be allowed to bring it. School devices must be treated with respect.**Leaving:** If you need to leave the class to go to the bathroom or to your locker, please raise your hand and ask. **Reading:** Reading is an important part of English, so we will typically start the class with 10-15 minutes of reading. You must bring a book with you, or you can borrow a book from my class library. Audiobooks/eBooks are fine, but I must be able to see what you are reading. At this time, you should be silent and reading.**Attendance****Lateness:**I expect that you will 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. If you are late. enter the classroom quietly and with minimal disruption to the lesson or your peers. If your lateness becomes an issue, we will talk.**Absences:**If you are aware in advance that you're going to miss class, please come speak to me about any homework that will be missed.  If you are sick, please come speak to me about what you missed once you are well, or send me an email.  This will show accountability and responsibility. Ultimately, the best learning experience will come from being in class, so it is important that you attend class as much as possible.**Website:** I have a website where I post what we have done in class. If you miss a class, you can check what we did on there. Handouts will be posted there as well. **Leaving Early:** If you have to leave class early, please inform me at the start of class, give me a reason, and proof of parent/guardian permission to leave early. | **Assignments****Homework:**I will try my best not to give much homework and to ensure you have adequate time to complete your assignments.  Most homework assigned will be due to an inability to complete it during class time.  I expect all homework to be turned in on the given deadline. (There may be some exceptions to this.)**Due Dates:**All assignments will be given a deadline. I expect assignments to be in by that deadline, unless an extension (see below) has been requested. Late assignments will not receive feedback.  **Extensions:** If you need an more time on an assignment, please send me an email.  I would much rather extend the deadline for you, then for you to send me work that is not your best.  When requesting an extension, propose an alternate due date (w/in reason) and include your reason why; then turn in your assignment by the agreed upon deadline.**Plagiarism:**Plagiarism is absolutely, 100% unacceptable.  You will receive a zero for all work I find to be plagiarized. If it is a first-time situation I may offer you an opportunity to re-write.   That is not a guarantee though, so don't even risk it.**Swearing:**Swearing is prohibited in assignments. **Rewrites/Resubmissions:** You may only redo an assignment if you are completely caught up on everything else in the class. Rewrites are permissible on assignments that received a failing mark or less than an A (86%), but all other assignments must be completed.**Quizzes/Tests****Quizzes:** I will try to keep all of my quizzes to one-page double sided with no more than twenty marks total. **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 offer you a space where you can come to finish it or an additional class period to write it.**Plagiarism:**Copying from a classmate's test or bringing in an unauthorized cheat sheet will result in a zero on your test/quiz.**Rewrites:** I do not allow rewrites on tests/quizzes. If your test/quiz mark is lower than an A (86%), please see me for an appropriate bonus assignment.**Phones:** The use of phones, whether for listening to music or otherwise, is strictly prohibited during a test or quiz.**Other****Flex:** If you owe me a summative assignment, or more than three informal assignments, you will be required to stay for Flex if it falls immediately after our class in order to catch up. If not required to stay, you are welcome to stay and work on whatever you need to.**Office Hours:** One day a week, I promise to be in my classroom at lunch for extra help/assistance. If you need more time to work you can come then, etc., I will be there. The day is TBA, and will be posted.**Lost Handouts:** There are two places where you can check for a misplaced handout: my classroom website, or the extra handout bin for your subject on the shelf near the door. Check there before you ask.**App:** Chatelech has an app called Chatelech2Go, and you can use it to get updates from the school and your classes. I will be trying to use it to send reminders about homework throughout the year. If you subscribe and let me know that you have, you will receive a treat.**Other:** If there is anything else you’re unclear on, just ask. |

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 my students to succeed, and parental/guardian 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.

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 Teacher

alegault@sd46.bc.ca

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

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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

Parent/Guardian email address