

Santan Jr. High 2020-2021

8th Grade English Language Arts with Mrs. Garcia-Larson

Contact Email: garcialarson.monica@cUSD80.com

Information: Website: www.cUSD80.com/garcialarsonm

School phone: 480-883-4658

Google Voice: (605) 646-0083—This is a phone number that you can call to reach me even if I am not at school. You can also text to this number, leave a voicemail, etc.



Office Hours: My school contract hours are Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. I will be busy teaching, grading, etc. during these times. If you need to reach me, please email, Remind text, or leave me a voicemail/text through Google Voice. I will respond as soon as I can. If a student needs extra assistance, he/she should contact me to set up a time for a small group tutoring session. Please know that if I get a message past 7:00 p.m., please do not expect a response until the following day. Thank you!

****The following information pertains to on-site learning. Please note that adjustments will be made accordingly for online learning. Information specific to online learning is indicated with an asterisk (*) within the content. There is also more online learning information on the last page.**

Textbook: Pearson's My Perspectives Textbook

Textbooks are kept in our classroom, but they may be checked out through the media center to be used at home as needed. Other articles and supplemental material will be used in conjunction with the textbook.

***During online learning, PDFs of materials will be made available for students.**

Content: Using the *Arizona English Language Arts Standards*, we will investigate reading, writing and language. Students will read a variety of content (short story, article, memoir, poetry, drama, biography) from our Literature Anthology, as well as various novels that are on the district's reading list. This list is below and is up to teacher choice. I have highlighted the text selections that I typically use.

English 8 Reserved Extended Text

House on Mango Street

Diary of Anne Frank: A Play

Taming of the Shrew

Preamble and First Amendment to the United States Constitution

Nothing but the Truth

The Devil's Arithmetic

Things Not Seen

Red Scarf Girl

The Diary of Anne Frank autobiography

Animal Farm

Lord of the Flies

Sophie's World

Fahrenheit 451

Growing Up Chicana

Hitchhiker

The Pearl

New Titles:

Chains - Laurie Halse Anderson

I am Malala: Young Readers Edition - Malala Yousafzai

The Sunflower - Simon Wiesenthal

*It is helpful for students to have their own hard copy of the books we read. I will give plenty of notice so that you can purchase or check out from the library if you desire. I will do my best to pick titles that I can find a PDF version for student usage online.

****Note:** AZ ELA Standards are the same for both honors and on-level. Therefore, some class content may be the same/similar. However, the differentiation lies in the complexity of the texts and the amount of higher-level thinking tasks that are expected of the students.

We will also focus on our writing skills as we respond to the literature we explore (essay, narrative, research, persuasive/argument). Key grammar and language elements will help guide our learning and communication skills.

Writing Focus: Developing and organizing ideas in writing following MLA (Modern Language Association) across different domains (quick writes, summarizing, five-paragraph essays, research, etc.).

Reading Focus: Analyzing literary elements as a vehicle to gain a deeper comprehension of various texts.

Supplies: In our class we use a **one-subject spiral notebook** for each semester. If students write large, they may need to use more, so it would be helpful to have four notebooks for the year. **These notebooks should be kept all year long as a reference and study material for tests and finals.** These notebooks will contain notes, vocabulary, reflections, literary responses and grammar/language skill practice, etc. Students will also benefit from being prepared for class activities with pencils, black or blue pens highlighters, colored pencils, grading pen (any color other than black or blue), markers, individual roll of tape, scissors, sticky notes, or any other materials they prefer. Materials are, of course, also provided in class. ***For online learning, it will still be helpful to utilize this notebook/materials as we will pick up where we left off when we return to class.**

Assignments: Students will be given a wide range of assignments including homework, projects, tests, quizzes, class work, compositions, and participation. Most work will be completed during class time (if class time is utilized appropriately). Any work not finished in the classroom becomes homework. Students will be expected to do independent reading each quarter and complete assignments and/or parent interviews for these books both inside and outside of class. **Students should have this book in their backpacks each day in order to read if they have extra time in any class. Random book checks will occur, and if a student does not have his/her book, credit will be lost. These points cannot be made up. If a student finishes his/her book, they should get another one to begin reading.**

Assessments: Quizzes may occur on a weekly or biweekly basis that cover the material learned in class. This includes, but not limited to, comprehension questions/vocabulary from our focus text, grammar skills, literary elements, writing skills, etc. Tests will be given upon completion of a novel study and at the end of each textbook unit. These will vary and may even include project-based assessments. Vocabulary tests are typically about a week from the day the list is given to students.

Grading: We will follow the grading scale of: **100-90%=A, 89-80%=B, 79-70%=C, 69-60%=D. 59 and lower=F.** Scales and rubrics will also be used in this class. Students will have these tools available to them as they work on an assignment so that expectations are clear in order for them to do their personal best. **Late work will be accepted for deduction of credit as follows: 1 day--10% off, 2 days 20% off, 3-5 50% off, 5 + zero credit.** In certain circumstances, teacher discretion will be used. I know that "life happens," so please communicate, and I will work with you. Showing each other a little grace can make everything better! If a student is not happy with a grade he/she earned, it is advised to discuss options with the teacher for redoing the assignment or assessment. This will allow the student to recoup some points, but more importantly, to better learn the concept.

Make-up

Policy:

Students are responsible for any missed work after returning from an absence. Folders with extra handouts are available to students, and they should touch base with the teacher before or after class as well. Students should talk to teammates and/or teacher for any clarification. Student may be required to come to tutoring to make up missed assessments, assignments, or to redo an assignment.

Behavior

*Follow all school rules

Expectations:

- *Respect yourself and others
- *Communicate in a polite manner
- *Follow classroom procedures
- *Clean up after yourself

☺ Consistent compliance with the expectations may result in: special treats, verbal praise, smiles, phone call/email home, happy notes

☹ Failure to comply with the expectations may result in: behavior slip, CARE, phone call/email home, office visits

Media:

Throughout the year, we may watch video clips and/or media that support our novel studies and curriculum. This will also help to fulfill our Common Core standard: **RL.8.7: Analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story or drama stays faithful to or departs from the text or script, evaluating the choices made by the directors or actors.** These will be **rated PG or PG-13**. By signing that you understand our policies, you are consenting that you are aware of this. If you are not comfortable with this, indicate so on the sign off form, and I will follow up with you. Thank you.

Communication:

- Please routinely check **Infinite Campus** for grades and our **classroom website** for any pertinent class information. When in doubt, please email or get in contact with me. Students will also be using Google Classroom throughout the year. Many assignments and references will be available through this site. Students will set up their accounts within the first couple of weeks of school. ***During online learning, it is a good idea to check your student's Google Classroom as well. You can be invited into your child's classroom upon request.**
- **Remind Text Messages:**
Parents and students should sign up for the appropriate class to get reminders for assignments and/or school information. This is at the teacher's discretion and is an extra courtesy, not an expectation.
 - **Garcia-Larson 8th Grade Honors ELA:** Text @hgl58 to 81010
 - **Garcia-Larson On-Level 8th Grade ELA:** Text @olgl58 to 81010
 - **Storm Hour (4th Period):** Text @stormhou to 81010

Please keep the following link handy as the district will be updating information for our families in real-time as we navigate virtual learning for Fall 2020.

Family link:

- <https://sites.google.com/gse.cusd80.com/cusdfamilydistancelearningsite/home>

Distance Learning

Since students will be starting school this quarter virtually, we will be utilizing Google Classroom and Google Meet to hold classes and provide direct instruction. Students will be following their class schedule and can find a link to our Google Meet in their Google Classroom. Please review the following tips to make sure we can make the best out of our online learning journey!

1. Find a quiet workspace.
 - a. Mute cell phones and other devices and turn off the TV, other computers, music, etc.
 - b. Check the background that will be visible if you are onscreen.
 - c. Let family members know when "class is in session" so you are not interrupted.
2. Try to take care of your personal needs before sitting down to the device.
3. Follow norms for communication during live lessons or when sharing ideas on Google Classroom:
 - a. Take turns.
 - b. Treat each other with kindness and respect when speaking or writing.
 - c. Mute audio when not speaking.
 - d. Speak clearly.
 - e. Use the chat feature to post questions or comments similarly to how you would speak if called on in class. Please do not use this feature for sidebar conversations with classmates.
4. Come ready to learn and focus on the task at hand.
5. If you cannot attend a class session, let your teacher know via email, Remind, or Google Voice and check Google Classroom for missing work.
6. Complete your own work to the best of your ability. If you have questions, please ask during class or tutoring. I am more than happy to help.



Santan Jr. High

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Office: 480-883-4600 Fax: 480-224-9264

Transportation: 480-424-8600
District Office: 480-812-7000



Bell Schedule		
Period	Start	End
1st	9:02 am	10:08 am
2nd	10:12 am	11:18 am
3rd	11:22 am	12:28 pm
4th	12:32 pm	1:38 pm
5th	1:42 pm	2:48 pm
6th	2:52pm	3:58pm

Lunch Schedule		
Lunches	Start	End
2B	10:48am	11:18am
3A	11:22am	11:52am
3B	11:58am	12:28pm
4A	12:32pm	1:02pm
4B	1:08pm	1:38pm
5A	1:42pm	2:12pm

