English 8

Mr. Pike, Room 104

spike@deltalearns.ca (Homework/ questions), spike@deltasd.bc.ca (Questions)

Google Classroom Code: _____

Homework Website: www.droppinenglish.weebly.com

Core Competencies and Curriculum

Core Competencies: https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/competencies

ELA 8 Curriculum: https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/english-language-arts/8

Year at a Glance

The focus in this English 8 course is the power of story and storytelling, and an exploration of how this medium reveals an understanding of ourselves and our worlds.

A final assessment for the year will be assigned in May/ June. This assessment will be worth 10% of the overall course mark.

Language and Learning
Students will review the fundamental mechanics and structures of English and explore their interests through an individual reading project.

Novel Study
Students will be introduced to literary elements and the "Hero's Journey" with the novel, *The Last Book in the Universe*. Focus will be on reinforcing literacy and comprehension, understanding of the importance of setting in literary work, and practicing formal writing responses.

Short Stories
Students will continue to develop understanding of various literary elements and explore how those elements contribute to a theme or message in a text. Writing skills will continue to be developed.

Mythology
Students will study select texts for the purpose of understanding how stories can be used to teach, explain, and unite the larger world and its peoples. Focus for this unit will be on character and characterization

World Building/ RPG
The last unit of the year will combine many of the skills and concepts learned to date in order for students to collaboratively build a world that can serve as backdrop to personalized interactive stories in the form of roleplaying games.
NOTE: This unit may include final assessment components for the course.

Assessments

Course assessments will come in the form of comprehension questions, paragraph and essay responses, tests and quizzes, and group and individual projects and presentations.

Supplies

Binder, paper, pens, pencils, highlighters, usb or flash memory
*** Supplies for creating visuals, posters, and 3D models may be required

Personal technology such as smartphones, tablets, or computers ARE NOT REQUIRED for daily use in my classroom. Students and parents are strongly encouraged to have a discussion of appropriate use of technology at school, and whether or not personal technology is needed in the classroom. In my experiences working with students, personal technology is a distraction far more often than it is an aid, and in numerous examples has added to academic difficulties throughout the school year.

Expectations

Be prepared to learn, be on time, be respectful

Simply put, students are expected to conduct themselves responsibly and respectfully at all times. **Students are responsible for their own actions, attendance, and grades, and will be held accountable for these responsibilities. See the attached sheet for school performance standards for work habits.**

Assignment Submission

Please see your school handbook in your app, or visit the school website, for SDSS's policy on plagiarism. Taking credit for an assignment or piece of writing that is not your own is called plagiarism, and it is a very serious offence. While students are encouraged to ask for help or clarification from sources outside the classroom, ultimately it is the student's own ideas, words, and efforts that should be evaluated and celebrated. **In the event of a plagiarized assignment being submitted, the work shall receive a mark of zero, and parents and administration will be contacted.**

It is expected that assignments will be submitted **on time**. If you think you will be unable to submit an assignment on time, you must see me before the due date to discuss.

Late assignments will be marked at my discretion; students wishing for me to mark late work sooner will need to schedule an appointment during Flex Time to conference with me.

Incomplete Assignments: Students who do not complete assignments reflecting prescribed learning outcomes run the risk of not receiving a 1st or 2nd term mark, or not successfully passing the year.

Parent / Student Connect

Attendance, assignment submission, and student work habit notations will be recorded on Teacher Connect and be made viewable on Parent Connect and Student Connect to students and parents. Overall course percentages will not be viewable until reporting periods. Any student or parent wishing to know a course percentage is encouraged to email or see me. I strongly urge both students and parents to refer to this site frequently for information regarding student performance.

Please note that Teacher/ Student/ Parent Connect is both a reporting *and* administrative tool, and is updated at an inconsistent rate according to my schedule. If you have any questions about what is entered on Student/ Parent Connect regarding the course, please see me.

Missed Class?

1. Check the website
2. Ask a classmate
3. Check the "extras" folder
4. See me between class, NOT during, and NOT just before the class starts.
5. Email me if your absences are extending.

ENGLISH CLASSMATE CONTACT INFO

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE #: _____

EMAIL: _____

OTHER:

_____