**Language Arts—Grade 8**

**Literature/Grammar/Writing**

**2019-2020 Syllabus**

**Teacher—Ms. Michele Davis**

**Email: mldavis2986@carlow.edu**

**Textbooks (used in class only:)**

Holt Handbook by John Warriner

Elements of Literature, Second Course

Teacher Created Resources: Mastering Vocabulary

**Class Novels, Short Stories, and Plays:**

*The Diary of Anne Frank* play

*The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne

*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

*To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

Choice books for literature circles

\*Students will choose independent reading for author research and diversity essay\*

**Class Novel Assignments/Projects**

• “Flag Your Strategy”

• Reading Notebooks:

o Setting

o Characters

o Point of view

o Themes

o Important/Interesting quotes

o Plot summary

o Discussion Questions

• Vocabulary Mondays (students will be quizzed on previous week’s words and receive next week’s words)

•Quizlet or flashcards for vocabulary (due Wednesday- contains word, definition, sentence, and picture)

• Comprehension/Analysis Chapter Questions

• Analytical essays or Compare and Contrast essays (comparing and contrasting novel to movie)

• Creative Projects

* Portfolios and Reflections/SMART goals

**Writing**

• Analytical Essays

• Compare and Contrast Essays

• Author Research Presentation

• Diversity Essays

• African-American History Month essays

• Mentor Sentences

**Grammar**

• In-class hands-on activities

• Practice through writing

• Quizzes and Tests

• Worksheets

* Sentence Diagramming

**Grading Scale and Policy**

A=90-100%

B=80-89%

C=70-79%

D=60-69%

E=59% and below

\*FOR MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS- LATE WORK WILL BE MARKED DOWN 5% FOR EACH DAY THAT IT IS LATE\*

\*HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS GRADED FOR COMPLETION ARE WORTH TWO POINTS EACH. STUDENTS RECEIVE ONE POINT IF IT IS ONE DAY LATE. AFTER THAT, IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.\*

**Class work, Effort, Behavior, and Preparation**

Because the course focuses on material presented in class, attendance is necessary for success. Students are expected to participate in class in a professional, appropriate manner. Students should use active listening skills while participating in all class discussions and provide respectful comments and questions.

Students are expected to arrive to class prepared and on time each day. Students should present a written excuse from a parent/guardian to his homeroom teacher when returning to school after an absence/tardiness/early dismissal.

If a student anticipates missing a class period, he/she should meet with the teacher beforehand to collect assignments. Missed work is the student’s responsibility. If the student is absent unexpectedly, he/she should make up missed assignments as soon as possible.

If there is a valid reason why the student did not complete an assignment (family emergency, illness, etc.), a parent/guardian should notify the teacher.