



VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CHARTING THE COURSE

Department of Teaching & Learning
Parent/Student Course Information

Advanced English Grade 8
(LA1124)

Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selections and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school's guidance department.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is organized around the overarching theme of challenges and reflects a variety of encounters with literature: non-fiction, short stories, novels and excerpts, historical fiction, narrative non-fiction, and media. Advanced English 8 provides the students with the opportunity to analyze and evaluate the social, cultural, and civic concerns expressed in the literature they will encounter. Major goals of the advanced eighth-grade program include: strengthening writing organization and written expression with an emphasis on expository and persuasion, reading comprehension and inquiry, critical thinking and creativity, and research skills along with developing effective communication through group discussions and oral presentations. The students will use the writing process to develop expository, narrative, reflective, and persuasive writing. Through writing instruction, students learn to analyze their own writing, and set goals to improve their composing and expression, and grammar, usage, and mechanics. The students continuously revise and edit their work as they build their writing. Additionally, they begin to read and write critically in response literature.

Writing, reading, discussion, performance based assessments, and classroom presentations require that the students move beyond literal recall of facts to an interpretation of literature with cooperative written response. Students are provided opportunities to examine various purposes for writing and to consider how writers make choices based on audience, purpose, and format. Throughout the year, the students continuously revise and edit their work as they build their body of writing.

Advanced extension options are provided throughout the school year within each unit. Deeper thinking is encouraged through these extensions which encourage students to examine higher level texts and make deeper connections. Some extension options include: adding research components, presenting or defending thoughts, revising writing to improve sentences/structure and deepen vocabulary, examining real-life choices and situations that influence choices and connect to characters, utilizing quoted material, developing literary critique and unique media messages.

At this grade level, students take the two Standards of Learning tests for grade 8:
English: Reading and English: Writing

PREREQUISITE

Successful completion of Core English 7 or Advanced English 7 and teacher recommendation.

OPTIONS FOR NEXT COURSE

Enrollment for the next English course should be based on student performance, teacher recommendation, and parent input. The courses available are Core English, Grade 9 and Advanced English, Grade 9.

REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOK

Holt McDougal Literature, 8

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

The teacher may choose supplementary materials to extend and enrich the students' knowledge of course standards. These materials may be drawn from: supplementary novels, visual media, primary source documents, simulations, computer programs and other online educational resources.

8TH GRADE VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING: ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Visit the Virginia Department of Education website to access the English 8 Standards of Learning

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/english/index.shtml

Aaron C. Spence, Ed.D., Superintendent
Virginia Beach City Public Schools
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Produced by the Department of Teaching and Learning. For further information, please call (757) 263-1070.

Notice of Non-Discrimination Policy

Virginia Beach City Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation/gender identity, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, disability, marital status, age, genetic information or veteran status in its programs, activities, employment, or enrollment, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. School Board policies and regulations (including, but not limited to, Policies 2-33, 4-4, 5-7, 5-19, 5-20, 5-44, 6-33, 6-7, 7-48, 7-49, 7-57 and Regulations 4-4.1, 4-4.2, 5-44.1, 7-11.1, 7-17.1 and 7-57.1) provide equal access to courses, programs, enrollment, counseling services, physical education and athletic, vocational education, instructional materials, extracurricular activities and employment.

*Title IX Notice: Complaints or concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of sex or sexual harassment should be addressed to the Title IX Coordinator, at the VBCPS Office of Student Leadership, 641 Carriage Hill Road, Suite 200, Virginia Beach, 23452, (757) 263-2020, Mary.Dees@vbschools.com (student complaints) or the VBCPS Department of School Leadership, 2512 George Mason Drive, Municipal Center, Building 6, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23456 (757) 263-1088, Elizabeth.Bryant@vbschools.com (employee complaints). Additional information regarding Virginia Beach City Public Schools' policies regarding discrimination on the basis of sex and sexual harassment, as well as the procedures for filing a formal complaint and related grievance processes, can be found in School Board Policy 5-44 and School Board Regulations 5-44.1 (students), School Board Policy 4-4 and School Board Regulation 4-4.3 (employees), and on the School Division's website at **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion/Title IX**. Concerns about the application of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act should be addressed to the Section 504 Coordinator/Executive Director of Student Support Services at (757) 263-1980, 2512 George Mason Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23456 or the Section 504 Coordinator at the student's school. For students who are eligible or suspected of being eligible for special education or related services under IDEA, please contact the Office of Programs for Exceptional Children at (757) 263-2400, Plaza Annex/Family and Community Engagement Center, 641 Carriage Hill Road, Suite 200, Virginia Beach, VA 23452.*

The School Division is committed to providing educational environments that are free of discrimination, harassment, and bullying. Students, staff, parents/guardians who have concerns about discrimination, harassment, or bullying should contact the school administration at their school. Promptly reporting concerns will allow the school to take appropriate actions to investigate and resolve issues. School Board Policy 5-7 addresses non-discrimination and anti-harassment, Policy 5-44 addresses sexual harassment and discrimination based on sex or gender. Policy 5-36 and its supporting regulations address other forms of harassment.

Alternative formats of this publication which may include taped, Braille, or large print materials are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. Call or write The Department of Teaching and Learning, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, 2512 George Mason Drive, P.O. Box 6038, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038. Telephone 263-1070 (voice); fax 263-1424; 263-1240 (TDD) or email her at Cameron.Vadersen@vbschools.com.

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your virtual link to Hampton Roads' largest school system



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