

Language Arts 9

Ms. Cox | Dixie Middle School | 2023-2024

Contact Information

Email: Trissie.cox@washk12.org

Grades

30% - assignments, classwork

70% - GVC assessments

Expectations

be **respectful** | be **responsible** | stay **engaged**

All expectations described in the DMS Student Handbook will be enforced. The handbook can be found on the DMS website: dms.wask12.org/students

Policies

Cellphones: NO cell phones or earbuds in class unless given permission

Late Work: .05% will be deducted each day an assignment is late.

Required Materials

- Novel of your choice
- Writing tool (pen/pencil)
- Highlighters
- Something to keep papers organized

Online Resources

- [ReadTheory.org](https://www.readtheory.org)
- [NoRedInk.com](https://www.noredink.com)
- [UtahCompose.com](https://www.utahcompose.com)
- Canvas

*****Note: the average 9th grader at DMS reads on a 5th grade level (excludes honors classes). It is imperative that parents support reading at home*****

Student Goals for 9th Grade:

- **Reading**— Students will be able to comprehend literature and informational texts independently and proficiently
- **Writing**— Students will be able to produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate for task, purpose, and audience. They will also demonstrate command of the conventions of English grammar
- **Speaking and Listening**— Students will engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions

Literacy Skills

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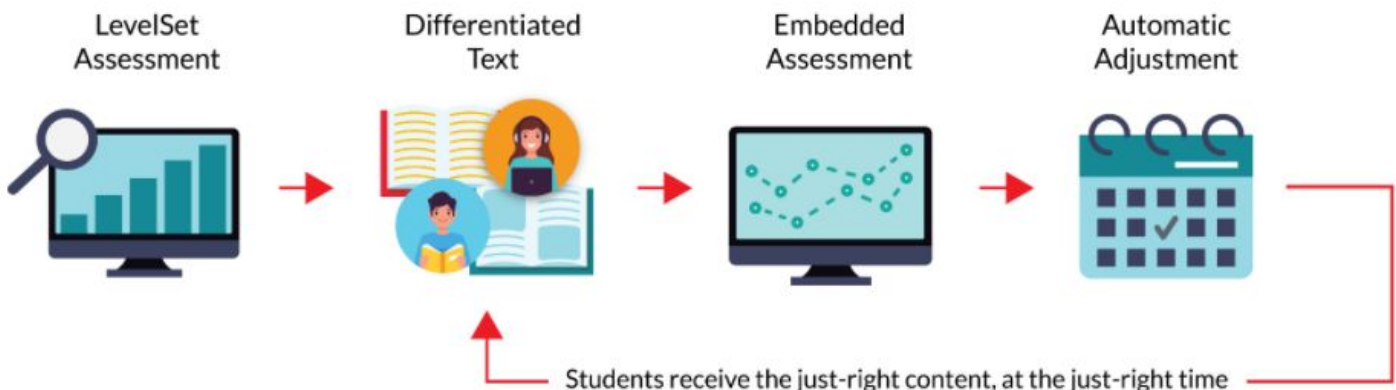
What Will We Be Doing?

We will be reading text selections from the Achieve 3000 program, learning new vocabulary, practicing our reading comprehension skills, and reading our own books.

Policies

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Late Work: .05% will be deducted each day an assignment is late.

How It Works



Creative Writing

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Course Description: *Creative Writing is designed for students to create original forms of descriptive writing, poetry, drama and fiction. Vocabulary development, creative writing techniques, and skills are explored.*

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Email: trissie.cox@washk12.org

Grades

30% - assignments, classwork
70% - GVC assessments

Required Materials

- Reading Book +
pen/pencil
- A place to keep their
papers organized

Expectations

be **respectful** | be **responsible** | stay **engaged**

Policies

Cellphones: NO cellphones in class

Late Work: Late work is highly discouraged but can be made up by discussing it with me.

Students will be able to...

- Use the writing process to **create** various types of **narratives, poetry,** and **prose** by using a variety of genre-appropriate writing strategies and **language techniques**
- Develop an understanding of **genre conventions** and apply them in their writing
- Use **collaboration** in the production and **evaluation** of writing
- **Publish** work in Dixie's Soaring Eagle publication

Online Resources

-Canvas



Proof of Authorship

Dixie Middle School

As a school, we strive to nurture students' critical thinking and individual voices as writers. Writing assignments are key to the learning process as they develop students thinking and help teachers assess student learning.

While a variety of tools (such as the Internet and AI, including Chat GPT) are available and helpful in some situations, it is important that students submit work which is their own writing and thinking--rather than work originating from one of these sources.

Teachers will help students understand how Chat GPT (and other tools) can be used as a research tool, but it is unacceptable to use it to replace students' own writing. When student thinking is the purpose, AI cannot replace it. If students use Chat GPT or other AI tools, they must label and clearly show how they were used.

Students bear the burden of proof that the writing and thinking are their own. If a teacher questions authorship, to earn credit, the student can:

- show the writing process or drafts (possibly a version history), and/or
- re-do at least a portion of the assignment in the teacher's presence.

If it is determined that the writing/thinking is NOT the student's own, the student – AT THE TEACHER'S DISCRETION– may re-do the assignment to earn up to 70% of the points possible for the assignment. What the re-do will entail is up to the teacher and is based on the specific standards/skills being assessed with the assignment.

7 High School Tips to Help Your Teen Transition to 9th Grade

By Barbara Dianis

Transitioning to high school from middle school can be an exciting yet daunting experience for parents and teens. 9th grade can feel like a whole new world. During this transitional time, teenagers may find that their existing systems need an upgrade.

1) Establish a study and homework time.

You and your teenager should agree to **study** and homework time prior to the beginning of the school year. Pre-planning will help your teen meet the increased academic demands of 9th grade.

2) Consider ways to upgrade study skills.

Review class notes from each high school class for at least five minutes a day. Reviewing class notes will help your teen retain and access the information on tests.

3) Check grades online together.

When you check grades together, you show your teen that you care about education. Also, pay attention to drops in their grades or missing assignments. Catching problems early in 9th grade is an opportunity to find educational solutions before real difficulties become an issue.

4) Encourage more study time earlier in the process for tests and quizzes.

Waiting until the day before a test may not be the best option for new 9th grade student because of the increase in information.

5) Communicate with your teenager's high school teachers.

You should build a relationship with your teen's high school teachers and check in with them several times a year. According to a 2006 study, teens whose parents communicate with the school are less likely to dropout.

6) Suggest study techniques that can make learning fun.

Try to help your teen find ways to make learning fun during the **homework** and study time. Teens can make review and drill time into a game show format using flash cards. They can make the flash cards from their study material.

7) Ask your teenager to share what they learned.

You can help your teen develop an interest in learning by asking them three concepts they learned in their classes each day.

Tips for Success in Eighth Grade

Eighth grade is a big year for middle schoolers! You've finally made it to middle school, and you're getting ready to transition to high school next year. Solidifying friendships and trying new things are just as important as getting decent grades and developing good study habits. Be a good friend, practice being confident, get organized, and get ready to have a good eighth grade year.

Having a Healthy Social Life: Join a sports team or a club if you haven't already. Eighth grade is a great time to try new things, so consider signing up for a new activity you haven't done before. You could join the journalism team, audition for the school play, try out to be on a sports team, or run to be on student council. If you already belong to a club or team that you enjoy, stick with it and see if there are ways you could be even more involved, like running for club president.^[1]

Avoid drama and gossip so you can focus on having fun with friends. In eighth grade, there might be a lot of drama as people try to define who they are and assert themselves on the social ladder. Try to stay away from gossip and drama if you can—in the end, you will have more friends and enjoy your last year of middle school more if you don't involve yourself in that kind of thing.

Make new friends without ditching your old ones. Introduce yourself to people in your classes if you don't already know them, invite people to sit with you at lunch, and try to be social when you're at school events or extracurriculars. While it's important to meet new people and can be really exciting to make new friends, don't forget about the friends you already have. Try to be inclusive and bring people together.

Avoid being a bully and stand up for others who are picked on. Part of having a great final year of middle school is setting yourself up as a leader, and leaders don't bully others. Instead, be kind to others and try to see the good in everyone. Chances are, everyone else feels just as nervous as you about transitioning from middle to high school!

Try to join in conversations and share your ideas with others. Brush up on your small talk to practice for meeting new people in high school, and try to speak up in class when you know the answer or have ideas of your own. This will help you gain confidence, which is important to having a happy social life because others are drawn to people with confidence.

Create binders or folders for each class you will be taking. Get new binders and folders from the store once you know what classes you'll be taking, and set aside an afternoon to organize and decorate them. Create three different sections for each class: assignments, tests, and notes. This will help you stay organized throughout the school year.

Set aside time every day to do your homework. If you have a study period, use it to work on school work so you can have more free time in the evening. If you don't have a study period or if you have more work than you can complete in that time, try to get all your homework done right after school or after any extracurriculars you have.

Create a study plan for quizzes and tests. When you know you have a test coming up, set aside an hour each day for the week before the test to prepare. Try studying for 30 minutes at a time and then taking a 10-minute break. You can also create vocabulary flashcards (or even include important dates and facts to quiz yourself).