**8th Grade Language Arts Syllabus/Guidelines**

**Bennett’s Mill Middle School**

**2012 – 2013**

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**Course Description:**

The 8th Grade Language Arts program at Bennett’s Mill is aligned with the Common Core Standards. Students will work daily in all strands of the English/language arts curriculum: reading, writing, grammar conventions, listening, speaking, and viewing.

Students will actively participate in a wide assortment of genres of literature, grammar and usage conventions, vocabulary development, and formal/informal forms of writing.

Expectations for listening, speaking, and viewing behavior will be taught and modeled. Opportunities to practice these skills will include whole-class and small-group activities, projects, oral presentations, student-teacher conferences, and round-table discussions. Strategic use of films and videos will also enrich cultural and media literacy.

**Grammar** – DGP (Daily Grammar Practice) will be completed daily and tested regularly.

**Literature** – We will be reading many short stories, myths, poetry, famous speeches, and novels. We will study literary terms and devices, literary structure, and many different genres of literature.

**Vocabulary** – Vocabulary lessons will be taught in conjunction with various literature selections.

**Research** – Research projects will be completed during the year. Students will develop skills such as organizing ideas and information, taking notes, outlining, and planning a presentation.

**Writing** – We will practice the writing process which includes pre-writing, editing and proofreading, and publishing. The basic writing formats include descriptive, narrative, expository, and persuasive. Reflections will provide other opportunities for written expression.

**Course Materials:**

*The Elements of Literature*; *The Elements of Language*; *Daily Grammar**Practice* student workbook; *Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics: Language Skills Practice* student workbook.

**Grading Criteria:**

Daily Work/ Class work/Group activities/ Exit questions: 20%

DGP quizzes/ vocabulary quizzes/ journals/ spelling tests/all other quizzes: 30%

Tests/Projects/Formal Writing: 50%

**Student Expectations:**

1. Display respectful behavior to self and others.

2. Be prepared daily with assignments and materials.

3. Participate in daily activities.

4. Use agendas to write assignments and keep track of deadlines.

5. Be responsible in completing missing assignments when absent.

**Discipline/Consequences:**

The following discipline plan will be implemented in the English classes. This plan sets guidelines for students who need more structure in the classroom setting.

1. Verbal warning and written in agenda

2. Notice written in the agenda

3. 8th grade team detention-30 minutes-No signature equals a skipped detention

4. ISS silent lunch and teacher conference

5. Office Referral

Note: Certain behaviors result in automatic office referral without going through the discipline steps. Insubordination and fighting are automatic office referrals.

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I have reviewed the English syllabus.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

My child \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has permission to watch any PG rated movie approved by the Fayette County Board of Education and the Media Committee.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_