

**Eighth Grade English – Course Syllabus**  
**2007-2008**  
**Donna Neuman, Instructor**

**Rationale:**

The necessity of clear, concise writing integrated with technology is constantly growing in importance. The assignments in this class are designed to give the students experience in different types of writing and communication, sharpen proofreading abilities, practice spelling, and improve grammar skills.

**Textbook:**

Students will be given a textbook within the first few weeks of school. They will be expected to cover it to protect it.

Text: *Elements of Language, Second Course*  
Publisher: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston  
Copyright: 2004

**Course Objectives:**

At the end of this year, students will be able to use correctly the eight parts of speech, demonstrate understanding through writing, and revise their own papers in regards to the six writing traits. They will also be able to prepare and give a speech with an appropriate introduction and conclusion, maintaining the topic throughout.

**Assessments:**

Throughout the year, students' understanding will be assessed in a variety of ways including: tests, quizzes, written assignments, speeches, spelling tests, and projects. The assessments will be utilized to both form instruction and rate understanding. Rubrics will be utilized to grade performance assignments such as essays, speeches, and projects. Students will also be assessed on participation in journal writing.

**Grading Scale:**

The grading scale adopted by the Beresford Middle School and posted in the student handbook will be utilized in this class. It is as follows:

A+	99.5% and higher	C+	76.5%-79.4%	F	59.4% and below
A	92.5%-99.4%	C	72.5%-76.4%		
A-	89.5%-92.4%	C-	69.5%-72.4%		
B+	86.5%-89.4%	D+	66.5%-69.4%		
B	82.5%-86.4%	D	62.5%-66.4%		
B-	79.5%-82.4%	D-	59.5%-62.4%		

Assignments are due when they are asked for by me. A deduction of ten percent of the total points will be made for late papers. All assignments may be corrected unless specified by me. Corrections will be due by dates specified within the classroom.

**Teacher Information:**

Parent/guardian involvement in this classroom is greatly encouraged. Please feel free to contact me with questions. I check my email before school and after school each day.

Email:

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