



O'Farrell Community Charter School
8th Grade Language Arts Syllabus
2015-2016



Instructor	Diana Quito
Contact Information	School Phone: (619) 263-3009 Email: diana.quito@ofarrellschool.org The Language Arts Department will again be using the SpringBoard curriculum in order to prepare your student for Advanced Placement (AP) classes and other rigorous courses in high school.
Classroom Textbooks	SpringBoard Grade 8 is developed around the thematic concept of challenges. During each unit, you will read and respond to a variety of content-rich genres which explore this theme. This year, you will be growing in higher-order critical thinking skills, precision in reading and writing, text-based analysis and evaluation, problem-solving skills, and academic vocabulary. Unit 1: “The Challenge of Heroism” (Focus on narrative and definition/expository writing) Unit 2: “The Challenge of Utopia” (Focus on expository and argumentative writing) Unit 3: “The Challenge to Make a Difference” (Focus on panel presentations and multimedia campaigns) Unit 4: “The Challenge of Comedy” (Focus on analyzing texts and performing Shakespearean comedy)
Required Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SpringBoard Consumable Book• O’Farrell binder• Notebook paper• Single subject spiral notebook (one per unit)• Pens (black or blue) and pencils• Highlighter• Personal novel
Grading Scale	Grades will be determined by the accumulation of points on weighted tasks built around the Common Core A (90-100) B (80-90%) C (70-79%) D (60-69%) F (50-59%) <i>** As can be seen in the grading scale above, a zero is calculated as a 50% in the gradebook. This is done because grades are converted from a 4-point grading scale to ensure each grade from A to F is equally and fairly distributed.</i>
Grading Policy	Students are encouraged to revise any assignments or tests. <u>NO grade is final until it is written on a progress report or report card, which gives students ample time to improve their work. Late work is accepted for 70% maximum credit within a week after its due date.</u> Progress reports will be given every 2 weeks and will require a parent signature. The grading scale for student assignments is as follows: * 60% In-class assessments * 25% Participation/Classwork * 15% Homework/Take-home Assessments
Required Independent Reading	At home, students should read at least 30 minutes each school night in order to develop their vocabulary, reading fluency and reading level. In addition, students should read ahead or re-read selections as practice for strategies and literary elements learned in class to prepare for in class assessments.



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**Discipline
Policy**

All students are expected to follow the **FALCON WAY** (Focus, Attitude, Leadership, Citizenship, Organization, and Non-Violence).

In the event these expectations are not followed the consequences will follow the school's progressive discipline plan:

- 1st offense: Verbal Warning
- 2nd offense: Consequence in Classroom & phone call home
- 3rd offense: Referral which will follow the school-wide progressive discipline

**Plagiarism
Policy**

While students are encouraged to ask others to help them with their writing, any work turned in that is not their own (such as a peer's work or work copied from the internet) will result in a zero, with no option for revision, and a referral to Friday Night School.

**Resources &
Technology**

Students will be able to access an online edition of their student edition book:

<http://ofarrellcommunityca.springboardonline.org/>

For up-to-date assignments and news visit www.ofarrellschool.org and click on Ms. Q.'s name from the staff directory. It is highly recommended that you click on "subscribe" and add your email address to the web site's mailing list. That way, you will receive updates every time Ms. Q.'s updates class and homework assignments, as well as important announcements and calendar items.

We will also be using www.noredink.com to practice and quiz grammar and writing skills.

All students have online access to their most recent grades through PowerSchool.

(<https://powerschool.sandi.net/public/>) If you do not know your user name and password, see your Homebase teacher.

**Syllabus
Signatures**

Parents, once Ms. Q. has seen that this has been signed, students will file this syllabus in their O'Farrell binders. You can access the online version at any time from Ms. Q.'s web site.

Student Name (print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent signature: _____

Parent email: _____