



# Rancho Pico Junior High School



*"Whatever it Takes!"*

## English 8 – Mrs. Abdullah

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Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to English 8 and the 2011-2012 school year! The beginning of the year is always a time filled with excitement and wonder, and I am pleased to say that I am looking forward to an amazing year. In order to make sure that my expectations for English 8 are clear, please read the following and keep this as a reference in your binder.

English 8 is driven by the California English Language Arts Standards for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We will use the text Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes, Silver Level as well as supplemental readings to explore the short story, poetry, novels, and drama. While reading the literature, we will also engage in process writing, journals, vocabulary, grammar, and mechanics. We will connect the literature to our lives and other related works. Some other standards-based objectives that we will be learning this semester include the following:

- Identify literary devices such as idioms, metaphors, similes, dialect, and personification
- Distinguish characteristics of good paragraph responses, contrast them with weak paragraph responses, and revise student responses to improve them
- Identify themes and main ideas
- Identify and correct common punctuation errors

In addition to following standards, like each staff member at Rancho Pico, I am committed to the following Rancho Pico core values:

- We will develop genuine and authentic relationships with parents, students, and the community.
- We believe in the power and effectiveness of teaming to meet the needs of students through small learning communities, based on the principles of school within a school.
- We believe all classes must have a defined, viable, and rigorous standards-based curriculum.
- We believe the best interest of our students must be the driving force in all of our decisions.

### Suggested Materials

Bring the following suggested items to class EACH DAY:

- ✓ Dark blue/black pens
- ✓ One red, one green, and one blue writing utensil (colored pencil, pen, crayon, highlighter, etc.)
- ✓ Folder to keep paperwork
- ✓ Dividers
- ✓ Student Planner
- ✓ White lined paper
- ✓ Silent reading novel/book

If you need assistance with obtaining supplies, please see me.

### Movies

We will be watching the PG version of *The Outsiders* and the TV-14 version of *Anne Frank* after we finish reading the literature. We may watch appropriate segments of movies in addition to this, but movies will not play a big part in our curriculum. If I find another movie that supports the curriculum and I feel it is appropriate for class viewing, I will send home requests for permission to each home.

**My student has permission to watch the above mentioned movies.**

**Parent/Guardian signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Classroom Behavior and Academic Integrity Expectations for Each Student

- a. I will be respectful to everyone.
- b. I will be prepared, seated, and ready to participate when the bell rings.

- c. I will be responsible for bringing all of the required materials to class each day.

If a student is unwilling to follow the rules stated above, the following steps will be taken:

1. Verbal reminder
2. Student/teacher conference
3. Parent contact
4. Parent/teacher/counselor conference
5. Parent contact and a one-day suspension from class
6. Parent contact and a two-day suspension from class
7. Parent contact and a referral to the Assistant Principal's office

Keep in mind that these are school and district guidelines and are in place to foster a healthy and positive learning environment.

Grading is based on tests, quizzes, homework, participation, writing, daily in-class work, and major assignments. The scale for grading is as follows:

Grading scale:	A=90-100%	Advanced
	B=80-89%	Proficient
	C=70-79%	Basic
	D=60-69%	Below Basic
	F=below 60%	Far Below Basic

Homework and Late Work Policy: Homework must be completed and turned in on time. If for whatever reason homework is not completed on time, please see me in order to discuss possible avenues.

#### Extra Help

Please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or e-mail if you need help. Additionally, my door is always open; feel free to stop by any time. The sooner you contact me, the sooner we can find a solution together.

#### Expectations

At Rancho Pico Junior High School our goal is to create a diversity-sensitive environment for equitable results.

As your teacher, here is what you can expect from me to help you succeed in this course:

1. I will be prepared to teach each day.
2. The content standards, daily objectives, and agenda will be written on the whiteboard daily.
3. I will teach the district-approved curriculum.
4. I will prepare interesting and engaging lessons.

Here is what you, as a student, can do to be successful in my class:

1. Come to class on time, prepared to learn each day.
2. Complete your homework on time.
3. Identify a study buddy that you can contact if you are absent from class to get assignments or extra help.
4. Use the student planner/calendar that was given to you at summer check-in to organize your learning and keep track of your assignments.
5. Take responsibility for your learning.

As parents you can help your child by:

1. Taking an interest in your child's studies.
2. Talking with your child each night about what they learned in school and ask to see their notebooks.
3. Helping your child develop good time management strategies.
4. Working with your child to set realistic goals for success.
5. If you see that your child is having difficulties in a class, please intervene immediately – contact the teacher.
6. Attending Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meetings and other school events.

I look forward to working with you this year. I am dedicated to helping you succeed. If you find that you need extra help, please let me know so that together we can ensure your success.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Abdullah

From the parent/guardian to the teacher:

Here is some important information that I would like you to know about my child:

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From the student to the teacher:

Here is some important information that I would like for you to know about me:

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**Throughout the school year, Rancho Pico offers intervention, enrichment, and extra help sessions during the school day. These opportunities sometimes require the student to miss the advisory period, brunch or lunch. Students are always allowed bathroom breaks and nutrition during this time. By offering these opportunities during the school day, parents do not have to worry about transportation constraints or lengthening the school day for the student. Please initial in the appropriate space below:**

\_\_\_\_ Please initial here if you give your student permission to attend intervention, enrichment, and extra help sessions during the school day to receive the help they need to be successful in this class.

\_\_\_\_ Please initial here if you do NOT want your student to participate in these opportunities.

My signature below indicates that I have read and understand the requirements for this class as outlined in this course orientation.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_