**Advanced English 8**

**2013-2014 Course Expectations**

**Teacher:** Ms. Vinikoff

**School Telephone Number:** 648-4950 – Ext. 72012

**Email Address:** andrea.vinikoff@vbschools.com

**Class Website:** <http://pams-avinikoff.wikispaces.com/>

**Assignment Information:** All homework/assignment information will be posted to the class site.

**Course Description:** Advanced English 8 is organized into four units that incorporate skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Throughout the year, creative writing, essay writing, informative writing (research), literary analysis, and problem-solving/persuasive writing will be covered to illustrate that writing is a valuable, powerful method of communicating.

**Course Objectives:** The VBCPS English objectives reflect the SOL objectives. A detailed listing of the objectives and their correlation to the SOL’s are listed on SchoolNet. Various learning strategies will be introduced and practiced.

**Texts:** Holt’s *The Elements of Literature* will be issued to each student. Sets of *Warriner’s Handbook* and Houghton Mifflin Company’s *Write Source* will be available for classroom use. In addition, we will read many novels which are also listed on SchoolNet. Each student is required to attend class each day with his or her textbook.

**Class Supplies/Materials:**

* Three-ring binder containing a separate section for English
* Looseleaf paper
* Pencils/pens
* Flashdrive (will be used for all classes)
* Pocket folder with brads
* Spiral notebook
* Agenda

***Assessment Measures/Grading Procedures and Policies***

**Procedure:** Eighth-grade English teachers are basing students’ grades on the standards for English 8. Final grades are first and foremost determined by our professional opinion of your child’s work against those standards, not by mathematical calculations. We have been trained in analyzing student products against standards and in finding evidence of that learning using a variety of methods. A student’s final grade will be determined at the end of each quarter by converting from the 4-point scale to the VBCPS Board approved grading scale. Please be sure to sign up for Parent Portal, if you haven’t already done so, to view your child’s progress towards mastery.

**Assessment Measures:** Students will be evaluated using formative and summative assessments; which may include, but are not limited to, writing assignments, tests, quizzes, class work, and performance tasks.

**Homework:** Homework will be assigned on an as-needed basis for assessment review, project research, completion of classwork if more time is needed, and extra practice. Because standards-based grading evaluates mastery of your child’s learning, homework completion will no longer be counted as part of his/her overall progress for a grade. It does continue, however, to be an integral part of his/her role in his/her education, something for him/her to take ownership of. If your child does not complete the homework assigned, he/she risks being unable to successfully participate in or complete the next day’s activities and work.

Graded Assignments will be posted at least once a week to Parent Portal, unless the assignment was an extensive project, which may take longer to evaluate thoroughly.

**Scale:**

4 (AP) – A Advanced Proficient – consistently demonstrates proficiency; grasps, applies and extends key concepts, process and skills

3 (P) – B Proficient – regularly grasps and applies key concepts, processes, and skills with limited errors

2 (DP) – C Developing Proficiency – beginning to grasp and apply key concepts, processes and skills

1 (N) – D Novice – needs improvement; not making expected progress toward grasping key concepts, processes and/or skills

0 (NE) – E No progress is evident

**Help Sessions/Make-up Work:** With twenty-four hours notice, students may come for extra help before school Monday through Thursday. I am available from 8:15 – 9:00 A.M. Students arriving for tutoring before school must have their agenda signed by me the day before. If a student is absent from class for any reason, it is his/her responsibility to ask the teacher for any make-up work on the day he/she returns to school.

**Procedures for Conferences, Parental Contacts:** Please feel free to email me or call me about any matter regarding your child. If I am not available by phone, you may leave a message in my voice mailbox, and I will try to return your call as quickly as possible. Conferences may be scheduled by contacting the guidance department. Progress reports will be issued each nine weeks. In the meantime, please sign up for Parent Portal on the school’s website and keep a close check on your child’s grades. If your child’s grade has fallen below a C average, please contact me so we can discuss different strategies for student remediation. If we all work together, your child will certainly succeed!

**Citizenship Expectations:** Students are expected to be seated, quiet, and ready for instruction upon entering the room. Students should know and adhere to all policies stated in the Code of Conduct as well as those of PAMS. Failure to do so will result in implementation of my discipline plan. The steps of the plan include a documented warning, parent contact, and morning detention. The last step is a referral to administration. Serious offenses result in automatic referrals--please refer to the Code of Conduct for these offenses. Everyone should always be honest, respectful, responsible, and prepared!

**Advanced English 8 Class Expectations - Ms. Vinikoff**

* **I have Internet access and have reviewed the class expectations for this course.**

<http://pams-avinikoff.wikispaces.com/>

* **I do not have Internet access; please send home a paper copy with my child.**

Student’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(Please print!)*

Parent or Guardian’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(Please print!)*

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **This form should be returned by:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Teacher Communication Log**

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| **Date** | **Concern/Notes** | **Type of Contact**  **(Phone, Email, Progress Report)** |
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**\*\*For teacher use only.**