

**WOODBINE JHS  
GRADE 8 ENGLISH PROGRAM  
20011-2012**

Teachers: Kim Griffiths, Eric Tiessen, Elefteria Velentzas

The program is based on the expectations in the Ministry of Education document, The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8; Language 2006.

**Materials:**

The following is a list of materials that you need to bring to each class:

- a three-ring binder with lined paper
- a notebook if issued by your teacher
- blue or black pen
- red pen
- pencils and erasers

**Resources:**

- language 8 text book, library resources, and other various materials.

**Classroom Expectations:**

1. Arrive on time and be prepared to work.
2. Complete all assignments.
3. Know and abide by the Code of Behaviour (see Student Agenda).
4. If you are having difficulty with work, seek extra help.
5. If you are absent on the day of a test, it is your responsibility to arrange a time with the teacher to write the test on another date. This should be done immediately upon your return to school.

**Assessment and Evaluation:**

Students will be assessed using a variety of tools such as tests, quizzes, performance tasks, presentations, laboratory work, etc. In most cases, a rubric based on 4 levels of achievement will be used to assess mastery of the curriculum expectations.

<b>LEVEL 4</b>	<b>80-100%</b>
<b>LEVEL 3 *</b>	<b>70-79%</b>
<b>LEVEL 2</b>	<b>60-69%</b>
<b>LEVEL 1</b>	<b>50-59%</b>
<b>LEVEL R</b>	<b>BELOW 50%</b>

\* LEVEL 3 is defined as the **provincial standard**. A student achieving at LEVEL 3 should be well prepared for work in the next grade level or the next course.

## **MAJOR COMPONENTS OF THE PROGRAM**

### **1. Literature Units:**

Short Stories  
Media  
Novels  
Poetry  
Plays

### **2. Book Reports and/or Reading Logs**

Book Reports may be presented in oral and/or written format, or, as a reading log.

### **3. Silent Reading:**

Part of the reading program will include silent reading of material selected by the student. This material could be appropriate fiction, non-fiction, magazines, newspapers, etc. Oral sharing of reading selections is encouraged. DEAR (Drop-Everything-And-Read) Time, is to take place for twenty-minutes during Blocked Core periods.

### **4. Writing**

Throughout the year, students will examine various forms of writing and produce pieces of writing of their own, e.g., narrative, expository, descriptive, report, poetry, media works, Grade 8 brochure news article, using part, or all, of the standard writing process.

### **5. Journal Writing:**

This is an opportunity for students to express personal thoughts and ideas, reactions and reflections. Teacher prompts may also be used. Journals can be used for expression of ideas or student may choose the best of several entries to edit, revise and submit for a mark.

### **6. Language:**

Vocabulary, grammar and the conventions of writing will be taught following the expectations of The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8; language 2006. Direct Instruction, in-context instruction and integrated instruction (especially with Math, Social Studies and Science) will be used. Language Power F for Grade 8 from Gage Publishing will be used as workbooks.

### **7. Drama:**

The drama curriculum is intended to help students to develop an understanding and appreciation of drama, as well as the ability to create works using the forms, elements, and techniques of this discipline. Through exploring drama, students will develop an understanding of themselves and others, and will learn about the lives of people in different times, places, and cultures. They will develop practical, artistic skills as well as critical-thinking skills and a variety of communication skills. (The Ontario Curriculum 1-8, The Arts)

## 8. Media Literacy:

The goal of Media Literacy is to help students connect what they learn in the classroom with the world around them. Learners will critically analyze various media elements such as: newspapers, magazines, television, the Internet, etc. through various classroom activities. For instance, they will learn: how to uncover hidden meanings behind advertisements, as well as effectively direct and produce their own Public Service Announcement and commercials.

## GRADE 8 ENGLISH MARK BREAKDOWN

### **Reading Strand 100%**

The marks in Reading Strand will be compiled from a variety of sources such as: book-reports and book talks, novel studies, as well as comprehension tests.

### **Writing Strand 100%**

Grammar, spelling, classwork, assignments, writing logs, quizzes and tests, are some examples of how writing marks will be generated in Writing.

### **Oral Strand 100%**

The Oral Visual mark will be mostly based on rehearsed, unrehearsed, oral presentations, read-alouds, and class-participations.

Role-playing  
Critiques  
Scripts  
Dramatic presentations

### **Drama 100%**

The Drama mark will also be mostly based on rehearsed, unrehearsed, oral and/or dramatic presentations (see Oral Strand). In addition, students will be assessed on their overall participation and creativity.

### **Media 100%**

The Media mark will be based on rehearsed, unrehearsed, oral and/or dramatic presentations (see Oral Strand). Students will also be assessed on their critical thinking abilities, creativity, and their ability to use some basic technical equipment (e.g., computers for power-point presentations, video-cameras, etc).