**Mrs. Yaros**

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 (Google Classroom will be available in October)

**8th grade English**

***Voyages in English:* Loyola Press**

 This class is very similar to 6th and 7th grade English, only with more intense concepts. Students will still write in journals, and they can expect a healthy blend of grammar (parts of speech, punctuation, etc.) and writing. Since I also teach 8th grade literature and religion, I will sometimes integrate lessons from these subjects into our writing lessons.

 Some of our writing assignments will include:

* + - Creative Writing
			* Short stories
			* Poetry
		- Descriptions
		- Expository writing (Family History Project)
		- Research Paper (Saint Report)/Oral Presentation
		- Persuasive Writing/Speech
		- Business Letters

**The reflection journal used in religion class will also serve as the writing journal**. This journal will be kept in the classroom. Another notebook will be needed for note-taking, and this will count as a grade. Students will need these on the first day of class. One-subject notebooks are preferred for the reflection/writing journal. Please consider investing in a flash drive to save typed assignments.

**Grading**

Tests/Quizzes: 50%

Homework: 30%

Journals/notes: 20%

**8th Grade Literature**

***Literature; Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes:* Prentice Hall**

8th grade literature will cover a wide range of literary elements across the genres, but focus on a common theme of “Facing Challenges in the World”. Students are given weekly vocabulary assignments and tests, along with occasional reading quizzes. 8th grade students will read the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee . We will also do a literature circle unit that focuses on nonfiction, which will be about saints/religious figures. Students will also read and perform a play in class. **A notebook for interactive notes is required for this class.**

**Grading:**

Vocabulary: 20%

Homework/Notebook: 30%

Tests/Quizzes: 50%

**8th Grade Religion**

***Christ Our Life:*** Loyola Press

***Decision Point****:* Dynamic Catholic Institute

 In 8th grade we focus on the mysteries, marks, and history of the Catholic Church and what it means to be a Catholic. Students in this class will also prepare themselves for the sacrament of Confirmation. Please be on the lookout for notes being sent home regarding events and “Service Sundays”. Now is the time to begin thinking about a sponsor and which saint you will take as your Confirmation name.

In addition to supplemental materials that I will use for Confirmation preparation, the students will also be using the ***Decision Point*** program by the Dynamic Catholic institute. These materials are available online. Links can also be found on my website.

In this class students will be expected to know their prayers, including the rosary. My goal is to prepare these students to live a Christian life beyond the walls of the school and church grounds. We have many debates and discussions in our class that are designed to prepare students to face the challenges presented in a very secular society. The reflection notebook will also be counted as the English writing journal, so only one notebook will be needed for journaling.

 In addition, students will practice following Christ’s footsteps by serving others. **Students are required to complete four (3) service hours each marking period, which will be a part of their grade.** I only collect documented hours from events that occur between Orientation and Memorial Day. Students enrolled in the Confirmation program will have plenty of opportunities to complete these hours. I strongly encourage students to complete their hours early in the marking period and to document them promptly. Acceptable projects are events in which the students receive no monetary reward or personal gain.

 **Grading:**

Projects/Service Hours: 30%

Homework: 20%

Tests/Quizzes 50%