

Coach Horton 8th Grade ELAR 2025-2026 Syllabus

Instructor Information

- **Coach Horton**
- **Conference Period - 9th Period**
- **Phone:** 903-474-1748
- **Email:** chris.horton@gsisdschools.net

Course Information

Our curriculum and textbook is online for this class therefore it is imperative students have their Chrome book with them and charged every day. We will explore different genres in literature and build upon our writing skills covering topics we read about. Students will be challenged to think critically and develop problem solving skills while learning to work cooperatively and independently.

Learning Materials

School issued Chrome book

Online:

Textbook- Teach Big
StudySync

Google Classroom
Other online supplement materials (Ex. Lowman Education)

Attendance Requirements

In order to be successful in this class, it is important to be in class as much as possible. In the event situations arise that require you to miss, all assignments will be posted in Google Classroom for you to complete before returning to class. As listed in the student handbook, for each day a student is absent, that is the number of days the student will have to make up any missing work. Because it is easy for students to get behind in their assignments, I encourage students to use every opportunity during and outside of class time to complete assignments. Please visit with me regarding any questions you may have, or assistance you may need, in order to complete any missing assignments. Missing tests will only be made up during school hours before or after school or during an agreed upon time.

Grading Standards

Grades will be based on daily assignments and six week progress monitoring tests. Sixty percent of the overall grade will come from Daily Grades while forty percent of the overall grade will come from Test Grades. Daily grades include, but are not limited to, daily warm-ups, exit tickets, in class assignments, journaling, book club discussion/activities, etc. Test grades include quizzes, six week progress monitoring, group assignments, projects, etc.

Homework

Homework is rarely assigned for this class, however, there may be some assignments that require work to be done outside of class time. Assignments given in this class will not be due until the start of the next class day unless otherwise instructed. Students will always be given adequate class time to complete their assignment the day it is given. However, should a student not complete an assignment during classtime, they will have the opportunity to finish the assignment outside of class before it is due the next day.

Late Work / Make-Up Exams

Late work: You must turn in all assignments **complete** and **on time**. **Complete** means you have done everything specified in the assignment instructions. **On time** means within 10 minutes of class start time on the due date. Incomplete assignments will not be graded. I do not accept them late without giving **prior approval** for work to be turned in late. Students with missing work will not be allowed to participate in extra activities such as Fun Friday (Dates to be determined), pep rallies, etc. Students with missing assignments will also join me in my room during lunch for Work Recovery to complete assignments while we have lunch. I am also available before school and after school, if advanced notice (day before) is given, for students to work.

Remember, one missed assignment or exam may lower your grade but will not cause you to fail. If you have multiple missing, incomplete, or late assignments, your grade will drop and possibly fall below passing. For best results, plan ahead, keep up with your assignments, attend class regularly and promptly communicate with me about any issues you need help with.

Plagiarism and use of AI

In this class we will be writing on a variety of subjects including responding to text

passages or class novels we are reading. Technology has advanced greatly and the use of AI generated information has increased tremendously. However, in order to use AI effectively and correctly, one must have sufficient knowledge of the correct steps to take for any type of writing, and that is what we will be practicing in this class.

Plagiarism is,

“the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own” - Dictionary.com

Plagiarism in this class will not be tolerated including the use of AI generated written work and/or responses. **Any assignment submitted that is found to have plagiarized material or AI generated information will result in a grade of zero and will not be available for correction or resubmission.** I recognize not every student is a strong writer or even likes the process of writing but, I want each student's work to be their own so that I can help him/her improve their skills and help them learn the correct way to express their thoughts in written work. Please visit with me if you have any questions.