***Mr. Martin’s 8th Grade Language Arts Syllabus***

***18’-19’ School Year***

***Contact Info—***

***E-mail:*** [***martinr@unit11.org***](mailto:martinr@unit11.org)

***School Phone: 747-2156***

***Class Website:*** [***www.epg8thlangarts.weebly.com***](http://www.epg8thlangarts.weebly.com)

***Class Blogsite:*** [***https://kidblog.org/class/EPG8LA/login***](https://kidblog.org/class/EPG8LA/login)

***Spelling Website:*** [***www.spellingcity.com***](http://www.spellingcity.com)

***Writing***

Over the course of the school year, we will compose at least seven formal essays/reports. For each of these writing projects, we’ll work through the writing process of brainstorming, outlining, drafting, revising, and publishing. The final draft from each writing project will be stored in your classroom folder. At the end of the year, you’ll have the opportunity to review and write a short reflection paragraph concerning all your hard work. Formal writing projects may include…

* Multiple Intelligences Essay
* Neighborhood Narrative Essay
* Persuasive Business Pitch
* Comparison/Contrast Consumer Report
* Descriptive Essay
* Researched Controversial Issue Editorial
* Research Paper/PowerPoint Presentation

***Grammar***

Generally, the first semester will be devoted to a study of the parts of speech and sentence construction. This study will include in-class practice, daily homework, and tests. Units for study include…

* Nouns and Verbs
* Sentence Parts and Sentence Fluency
* Adjectives and Adverbs
* Pronouns and Subject/Verb Agreement
* Punctuation
* Prepositions and Phrases

***Spelling/Vocabulary/Sentence Units***

Nearly every week, you’ll be given a list of twenty spelling words to practice, study, and be tested over. These words will be drawn from lists of commonly misspelled words and “Be More Descriptive” words. Along with each list of words, we’ll be examining a specific sentence pattern. The practice exercises for these spelling lists and sentence patterns can be found on [www.spellingcity.com](http://www.spellingcity.com). They will be due before class each Monday, when we will take a test over the week’s words. The tests will require that you memorize the spelling and definition of each word.

***Write Stuff Activities***

Nearly every day, we will begin class with warm up writing activity. These activities will involve using the correct word, finding errors in writing, sentence combining, using the thesaurus, practicing sentence variety, poem interpretation, and practicing spelling words.

***Quarterly Blogging/Journal Assignment***

Students will be responsible for writing 1,500 words on the blog or 10 pages in their journal each quarter. This standing assignment will count for 10% of each nine week’s grade. For specific requirements regarding blog/journal writing, visit the “Blogging/Journaling” page on the class website.

***Tentative Schedule of Study***

**August**

* Letter of Introduction
* Multiple Intelligences Essay
* Noun/Verbs/Sentences Unit
* Spelling Unit 1

**September**

* Neighborhood Narrative Essay
* Adjectives/Adverbs Unit
* Independent Essay #1
* Spelling Units 2-4

**October**

* Descriptive Paragraph
* Agreement & Voice Unit (Pronouns & Subject/Verb Agreement)
* Spelling Units 5-7

**November**

* Product Comparison Essay
* Punctuation Unit
* Spelling Units 8-10
* Independent Essay #2

**December**

* Persuasive Argument
* Punctuation Unit
* Spelling Units 11-13

**January**

* Researched Controversial Issue Editorial
* Phrases Unit
* Spelling Units 14-16

**February**

* Research Argument
* Spelling Units 17-19
* Independent Essay #3

**March**

* Research Project
* Spelling Units 20-22

**April**

* Common Core PARCC Test Preparation
* Research Project
* Spelling Units 23-25
* Independent Essay #4

**May**

* Spelling Unit 28
* Research Projects Due
* PowerPoint Presentation