

**John Jay Middle School**

P.O. Box 387  
Katonah, NY 10536  
914-763-7500

**“Learn. Care. Lead.”**

*Mr. Jeff Swiatowicz, Principal*

*Ms. Monica Bermiss, Assistant Principal*

*Ms. Shantel Brooks, Assistant Principal*

**2019-20 Open House**

**Teachers’ Names:** Ms. Baisley  
**Subject:** Grade 8 English Language Arts  
**JJMS Goal:** Take the time to get to know our students well and use that knowledge to increase student engagement in our classrooms.

**Mission Statement:** *We strive to create a safe, supportive literary environment to foster student engagement, curiosity, questioning, and respectful discourse. Students will grow and become better readers, writers, and communicators, as well as become more empathetic, confident members of society.*

**Curriculum:** Literature study in eighth grade is thematic. Students learn how authors, using different forms of literature, can write about a similar underlying message or meaning. Writing includes a comparative essay, an editorial, and a literary essay. These units are designed to be an experience driven by curiosity and motivation and fueled by research.

Writing workshops are used in grade 8 to afford students the opportunity to pre-write, draft, confer, revise, edit, and publish. In each English classroom, a working portfolio of completed assignments is maintained. Formal grammar and usage are studied in connection with writing. This usually occurs during the revision and editing stages of writing. Throughout the year all students will have the opportunity to write formally and informally as well as process and on demand writing.

Students will write informative/explanatory pieces that examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

**Modules, lessons, and assessments are aligned with Common Core Standards for 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA.**

**Modules:** *Of Mice and Men*, “A Raisin in the Sun”, comparative analysis, editorials, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*

**Grading and Homework:** 50% Major Assignments (final copies, projects, tests)  
25% Homework, Reader’s Response Notebook (RRN)  
25% Quizzes, Classwork, Formative Assessments

**Resources:** John Steinbeck’s *Of Mice and Men*  
Lorraine Hansberry’s “A Raisin in the Sun”  
Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*  
an array of short texts (including, but not limited to editorials, short stories, poems, and articles)  
Independent reading books  
Typically homework assignments and resources will be posted on e-chalk.

**Extra Help:** Ms. Baisley: Thursdays after school and during 6<sup>th</sup> period lunch by appointment

**Teacher Contact Information:**  
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