

# Hillside Middle School

1941 Alamo Ave.

Kalamazoo, MI 49006

Atiba McKissack, Principal

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**Contact Information:**

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Bloomz code:

**Education:**

Bachelor’s degree in English, Secondary Education track, with a minor in Spanish from Mount Vernon Nazarene University; Master’s in the Art of Teaching in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from the University of Southern California’s Rossier Online program

**Course Description:**

English Language Arts 8 provides students with a balanced literacy program. Students will analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning (literature) how the author uses and refines meaning of key terms over the course of a text (informational text). Students will compare and contrast two or more texts determining the central ideas and themes, citing textual evidence to support analysis, and write objective summaries of texts. Students will concentrate on the writing process with a focus on narrative, argumentative, and informational/explanatory writing.

**Major Instructional Goals:**

**Materials Required:** Students are required to have their I.D., a composition notebook, a ½” three ring binder or a folder/section within their main binder set aside just for ELA, writing utensils, a reading book, and their planner at all times. Students will also be required to use their district email account, keep a class blog on Blogger, and turn assignments in on our Google Classroom page. It is helpful if they have internet-capable devices for those things, but should they bring said devices to school, their devices are entirely their responsibility.

**Management System:** We use the Responsible Thinking Process at Hillside Middle School, and that process will be used in this class in addition to practicing classroom procedures and positive reinforcement. We will also use Classcraft as a way to foster cooperative learning, team-building, and positive behavior.

**Coursework:** Students will learn in class by listening to, reading, and speaking Spanish as much as possible. They will also work to improve their Spanish writing in this course. This requires that the students listen, bring required materials and respond in Spanish when questioned. They learn best when they hear and speak the language frequently. Therefore, a portion of the grade in this class is for class participation.

**Texts:**  Exprésate Spanish I, Holt

New Mini-Stories for Look, I Can Talk! Blaine Ray

\*NOTE\* Much of the course material will be supplemented.

**Grading:**

Assignments and Course Work – 10%

Homework – 10%

Quizzes and Tests – 60%

Common Growth Assessment (Final Exam) – 20%

**Grading Scale: 90 – 100 A, 80 – 89 B, 70 – 79 C, 60 – 69 D, 59 and below – Redo or F**

**Late Work:**

I teach using the mastery model, which means that students will have opportunities to re-take assessments both in class and after class, and that also means that I do not charge late grades. All work is due by the last Monday of the marking period, and students will not lose any points for turning it in late, should they do so. After a marking period ends, late homework will no longer be accepted from the old marking period.

**Missed Work:**

1. It is **the student’s** responsibility to obtain the homework assignments, notes & any other pertinent information that is missed during an absence. They can get handouts and more from the lesson plans posted on the classroom website.
2. Missed work due to an absence: Additional time and full credit will be allowed for each day of an absence. Work missed during an absence must be completed. Exceptions will be made in unique, deserving situations as determined by the teacher and/or administrator.

**Tutoring:**

I stay after school every day until at least 3pm, though most Mondays and Wednesdays are taken up with meetings. If a student is failing or needs extra help, it is that student’s responsibility to come after school for tutoring or the chance to make up missing work or take/re-take an assessment. It is best for the student to look for the posted tutoring times on the board every week to know when I will be there for sure and to sign up on the online class calendar. If all else fails, students and parents can email me to set up a time.

**Note from the teacher:** I love teaching English! I am beyond excited to have the chance to help my students improve their reading, writing, and listening skills this year, and I consider it an honor and privilege to have them in my class. Parents, thanks for everything you continue to do to prepare your child for success in school, and please do not hesitate to get a hold of me for any reason.

Your partner in education,

Carina Hilbert

Please fill out the form below, and return it to Ms. Hilbert:

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PRINTED STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We have reviewed the course syllabus for Ms. Hilbert’s Spanish course.

Parent/Guardian Signature Student Signature Date

Phone numbers where parent/guardian can be reached. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ primary

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ alternate

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_