

Grade 8 Year Plan 2019-20

Lead planner: **Aishwarya**

Number of sections: **3**

Total number of students: **76 (69 returning, 7 new)**

Teachers: **Aishwarya (2 sections), Alekhya (1 section).**

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Who Are Our Students?

- Strengths
 - they can tell if the lesson was useful to them or not
 - they are willing to take risks
 - they are generally friendly with each other
 - they are generally helpful to each other
 - many love reading
 - they are quite self aware
 - they use independent time well,
 - they respond very well to encouragement
 - they are diligent about HW and about spelling & grammar practice
 - they hold the teacher accountable yet are polite
 - they *get* the writing process
 - they are willing to redo and redo and redo

- they are sensitive about the grades but not to the extent that it debilitates them (except a few of them)
 - they don't compare themselves with each other or with other sections much
 - they are hungry for growth
 - they welcome and accept teachers easily
 - they are largely accepting of each other
 - they are not very scared of teachers
 - very reflective, planned, organized, self aware in writing conferences
- **Struggles**
 - a few students are way behind compared to others
 - this has the potential to become an issue in the long run, for now it does come up as impatience in stronger readers/writers and hesitation in developing readers/writers
 - a few students struggle to maintain their status in class by faking that they know what they don't know
 - Some struggle in taking writerly decisions without the teacher's hand on the shoulder
- **Group Dynamics**
 - groupism may be beginning to surface. It is necessary to be mindful of this in lesson plans, and in the moment in class and keep showing them how to be more sensitive and empathetic and keep showing them the potential harm in some of the apparently harmless behaviours that they sometimes engage in (ex: making fun of someone's accent)
 - it is important to be in dialogue with other subject teachers and their counsellor on this aspect
 - group dynamics come into play most significantly in the book club groups and this must be considered for planning book clubs
- **Attitude Towards Learning**
 - largely positive, but it is necessary to keep an eye on students who don't get good grades, they may be prone to putting on a mask of knowing/understanding/performing

- Attitude Towards the English Language
 - some are able to comfortably ask, “*Isko English mein kya bolte hain?*” [“What’s the word for this in English?”]
 - Must find out more using a survey

- Students Whose Struggles We Know
 - Banu (Aishwarya)
 - Nayana (Aishwarya)
 - Sita (Aishwarya)
 - Saina
 - Rani (Aishwarya)
 - Swagata (Counseling team)
 - Amethi (Aishwarya)
 - Sindhura K (Alekhya)
 - Anamika (Alekhya)
 - Santoshi M (Alekhya)
 - Harpreet (Alekhya)
 - Tejaswi (Alekhya)
 - Priyeshi (Alekhya)

- Students with Diagnosed Learning Disabilities
 - Samira
(links to reports)

- Students on the Waitlist to Be Tested
 - Vani (follow up by Aishwarya)
 - Anandi (follow up by Aishwarya)
 - Qutub (follow up by Alekhya)

Who Are We?

- Teacher strengths
 - Aishwarya
 - Writing conferences
 - Knowledge of students in last year's A section
 - Clarity of exemplar writing
 - Alekhya
 - Knowledge of students in last year's C section
 - Clarity with assessment - Rethinking Rubrics
 - Alignment with the lead planner's intentions (most of the time)
- Teacher struggles
 - Catering to the needs of students with learning difficulties and disabilities (what and when)
 - We don't have co-teaching anymore. How do we keep conferences regular?
 - Book clubs
 - Reading mini lessons have not been relevant to the students
 - Haven't read many books in the library