

English Language Arts Syllabus: 9th Grade

2017/2018

Course Overview

Welcome to high school English! This course demands that you challenge yourself as a reader and a writer. You are expected to read closely, summarize, and analyze both nonfiction and literature. Additionally, you will write argumentative, informative, narrative, and other creative pieces throughout the year. Because a robust vocabulary will help you read and write, vocabulary acquisition is a focal point this year. William Zinsser explains, “Writing is learned by imitation. If anyone asked me how I learned to write, I’d say I learned by reading the men and women who were doing the kind of writing I wanted to do and trying to figure out how they did it.” Reading and writing are interconnected and lay the foundations for ELA, so be prepared to do both *every* class.

Each quarter you will be responsible for reading an independent text. You will be held accountable for this reading by weekly checks and a cumulative project at the end of each quarter. This is a chance for you to explore topics and genres that interest you. Remember: you will only become a better reader and writer by reading and writing.

Learning to use technology is also a major part of this course; you’ll be exploring programs in Microsoft Office and various apple programs such as iMovie. We’ll also learn how to use the internet and various databases for effective research. Many of you are already comfortable with your technological skills, so this class may be a place to show off what you already know.

Materials

- One 3-ring binder
- 5 tab dividers
- Pens, pencils
- Loose leaf paper
- Laptop (*provided*)

- Your binder is to be used exclusively for ELA assignments. Please be sure to complete all other assignments, notes, and work for other classes elsewhere.
- Bring your ELA binder, a writing utensil, your independent book, class book, and laptop to class DAILY.

Classroom Expectations and Procedures

- **Classroom Community:** Everyone needs to feel safe and accepted in order to learn and achieve. For that reason, my classroom has a **zero** tolerance for bullying, discrimination, harassment, and any kind of disrespect.

GENERAL CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

YOU ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Do your best.
- Bring ALL materials to class.
 - Laptops should be charged. Bring all accompanying equipment (charger, pen, etc.) with you.
- Be in assigned seats when bells rings.
- Respect classmates, teacher, materials, equipment, and yourself.
- Accept consequences of misbehavior.

• Entering Class:

- Enter the room, turn in homework, and sit in your assigned seats.
- Once bell rings, begin bell work which will be located on the smart board every day.
- While you work on bell work, attendance will be taken.

• Homework/Classwork Folders: Place homework and classwork that needs to be graded and/or reviewed in the designated homework folder located on the bulletin board by my desk. I will return your graded work as soon as possible.

• Group Work: You are expected to adhere to established time limits, listen to each other's ideas, allow every member a chance to speak, and ask all group members for help before asking me. We will be working with partners and groups often, so any grumbling and/or complaining will not be tolerated.

• End of Period: If there is any homework, it will be posted on the whiteboard to the right of the Promethean board every day.

• Transitions and Interruptions:

- Please go to the bathroom, get a drink, and sharpen pencils *before* the bell rings.
- If it is an emergency, you will be allowed to use the bathroom facilities with my approval. You will be given three bathroom passes a quarter for this purpose, and you will be expected to sign out.

• Food and Drinks

- Water is the ONLY drink allowed in class. No food or snacks permitted.

• Cell phones, iPods, Mp3 players, Etc.

- As our school becomes more technologically inclined, there has been a notably rise in minor cellphone disruptions.
 - Therefore if I see it, it will be confiscated and given to office personnel for safe keeping.
- If you insist on bringing your cellphone to class, and can't store it in your pocket, you may NOT have it on your desk!

- Please put it in the designated cell phone box in the front of the room.
- **Absence Procedure**
 - If you miss an ELA class, I will place the work you missed in the Absent folder by the entrance to the room. It is your responsibility to pick up the work you missed and approach me with any questions you may have about it.
 - YOU WILL NOT BE CHASED DOWN to make up work you missed.
 - When you miss a class you will NOT receive participation points.
 - Because participation is worth 30% of your grade, frequent absences will hurt your average.

Disciplinary Guidelines

The principles of integrity, respect and ethical behavior are long standing traditions at WCS. I expect all students to recognize these values and adhere to all aspects of student conduct and academic honesty inside and outside of the classroom. The act of academic dishonesty is one in which a student is trying to gain an unfair academic advantage or is avoiding actions required by a course, which have been designated to improve some aspect of the student's education. Knowingly and willfully aiding or collaborating with another in violating an Academic Honesty policy, even if not personally committing any violation is considered academic dishonesty.

Plagiarism occurs when a person presents another's ideas, information, words, artwork, films, music, graphs, data or statistics as if they were his or her own creation. Plagiarism is a form of theft and is cheating. When a person copies material from a published source, such as a periodical, encyclopedia, or book, or downloads a passage from an Internet source and presents that information without proper documentation (reference or quotation) in a paper or project, then that person has committed plagiarism. Even if the content or wording is slightly changed, *a little plagiarism is still plagiarism.*

If you are caught plagiarizing any assignment it is an automatic zero, and you will be written up. If it is your first offense, you will be given a chance to redo the assignment. If this is your second or subsequent offense, you will not be able to make up the assignment. However, cheating/plagiarizing on tests is an automatic zero.

Homework Policy

Unless specifically noted, all homework is to be completed independently. Homework should take students about 20-30 minutes to complete. * Late homework will be accepted for partial credit within the marking period. For example: Work due in the first Marking Period will not be admitted in the Second.

*Note to Parents/Guardians: If any assignment takes more than an hour, please email me or send a note with your student. This document is an important step in identifying students who may need formal paperwork regarding modifications for assignments.

Grades

- Quarterly grades are determined through daily Class assignments, homework, quizzes, group assignments, tests, writing assignments, and participation.
 - *Grade breakdown:* 30% homework, 30% Classwork/participation, 40% assessments

Daily Participation Rubric:

Participation 1	Preparation 1	Cooperation 1	On task 1	Classwork 1
Student is focused and attentive during entire class/ follows directions to the best of his/her ability and asks questions for clarification if needed	Comes to class on time, with books and writing utensil, and sits in correct seat without having to be told	Student is courteous, respectful to others, and follows all class rules and procedures. Does not disrupt class procedure or interfere with other students learning.	Student is on task throughout the entire class and focused on material being presented.	Student has done all in class activities.

- Your **final grade** for the course, which counts for 1/5 of your overall grade for the year will be a portfolio. Your portfolio will be made up of various work you have completed throughout the year plus some other reflection and evaluative pieces.
 - Therefore, you need to **KEEP ALL WORK** (tests, essays, drafts, projects, etc.) in your **ELA binder**.
- Parents, you also have access to your child's grades through Parent Portal through eSchool. Please check this often.

Extra Help

I am available to provide extra help after school on most week days. Please contact me, and I will do my best to establish a time that works for you if you need additional support.

My Promise to YOU:

- I will always believe in your ability to succeed. This means my expectations are extremely high. I will demand your best at all times.
- I will respect you, and I will insist that others respect you in our class. Please let me know, in an individual conference, if you ever feel disrespected.
- I will listen to you. I ask that you bring questions, concerns or comments to me in a calm, respectful manner at an appropriate time (after class, or after school).

Syllabus: ELA 9

Ms. Gardner

Please return this form to English Class by _____

I have read the “English Language Arts Syllabus” for Ms. Gardner’s English Class and will work toward achieving these goals and expectations throughout the school year.

Student Name (Print)

Student Signature

I have read the “English Language Arts Syllabus” for Ms. Gardner’s English Class and will encourage and support my son/daughter to work toward achieving these goals and expectations throughout the school year.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

Signature

Date

Email Address / Phone Number

Please circle preferred correspondence – email or phone

Questions, comments or concerns (including information you would like me to note such as a medical concern or behavioral concern about your child, updated contact information for you, etc.): _____

KEEP YOUR SYLLABUS IN YOUR ELA BINDER – HAND IN THIS PAGE ONLY!