English 9 Course Syllabus

2015-2016 School Year

Instructor Information

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Instructor | Email | Office Location |
| **Mr. Jack Cleveland** | jccleveland@mail.worcester.k12.md.us | Portable 12- ext. 3178 |
| **Educational Assistant**  **Mrs. Susan Wallace** | sbwallace@mail.worcester.k12.md.us |  |

## Course Description

In English 9 students will analyze multiple genres of literature (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama) and produce writing tasks that are appropriate for task, purpose, and audience based on comprehension of themes and understandings from readings. Students will apply correct usage of English grammar and vocabulary within writing assignments. All unit lessons have been aligned with the College and Career Readiness Standards for English Language and designed to prepare students to successfully demonstrate proficiency on the PARCC exam which will be given by the end of the course.

## Expectations and Goals

1. Students are expected to be on time to class. This means that they are seated and starting their warm-up when the bell rings.
2. Students are expected to follow the school PBIS expectations which are:
   1. **S**cholarship: Students strive to build knowledge and achieve goals in order to become college and career ready.
   2. **O**wnership: Students demonstrate ownership by being prepared for class, keeping track of assignments, and turning in work on time.
   3. **A**chievement: Students demonstrate achievement by trying their best on   
      all of their assignments and staying focused in class.
   4. **R**espect: Students behave in a professional manner. They respect themselves, other students, teachers, and school property.
3. We will have the maximum amount of fun required by law, so bring your sense of humor!

**Grading Policy**

* **Students will be graded based on total points accumulated as outlined in the student handbook.**
* **LATE WORK: Students are expected to turn all assignments in when they are due. If a student is absent from class, he/she has 5 days to turn in the assignment from that day. Assignments lose 5 points each day they are late. They will not be accepted after 5 days late.**

**Textbook:**

Students will be using an online textbook called **Pearson Common Core Literature Grade 9**. Many assignments will be given through the Pearson computer platform. Students are expected to use the program to obtain and complete assignments.

## Required Materials

* **3-Ring Binder**
* **5 Dividers (Grammar/ Reading/ Writing/ Literature Circles/ Graded Work)**
* **Pencils**
* **Paper**

**Curriculum Map**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Unit 1** | **Unit 2** | **Unit 3** | **Unit 4** |
| **Essential Question**:  Is conflict necessary? | **Essential Question:**  Is knowledge the same as understanding? | **Essential Question:**  Do our differences define us? | **Essential Question:**  What strategies would you use to analyze and evaluate complex information? |

**Literature Circles:**

1. Students will be required to read 4 novels **OUTSIDE** of class during the semester. These novels will require weekly reading and an assignment will be due at the last day of every week (Friday-Unless there is no school in which case it will be due on the last day of the week).
2. The novels will be selected by the students from the school library. Each group will work together to select a book of interest. This encourages students to read and enjoy the process of reading. Each week, the literature circles will meet to share their role sheets and to have high-quality discussion about their novels. Literature circles create an atmosphere of collaboration and students will use “book club” discussions to enhance their understanding of the novels and build critical thinking skills. They will be required to analyze the elements of the novels as well as author’s craft.
3. Please encourage reading **every** night to ensure that your child meets the weekly reading goal and completes the assigned role sheet.

**Please sign below** to indicate that you have read the syllabus and understand the expectations for the course. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. I am looking forward to an exciting semester with your child!

Thank you

Mr. Jack Cleveland

SHHS: English Department

jccleveland@mail.worcester.k12.md.us