

English Course Outline

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The focus of English Class is to encourage students to:

- Communicate effectively in written, spoken and visual forms
- Develop positive attitudes toward language learning
- Make connections to other areas of study and to life outside the classroom
- Think critically, creatively and reflectively
- Appreciate their own culture and culture of others.

BIG IDEAS				
Language and text can be a source of creativity and joy.	Exploring stories and other texts helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and to the world.	People understand text differently depending on their worldviews and perspectives	Texts are socially, culturally, and historically constructed.	Questioning what we hear, read, and view contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens

Course Content**Grammar**

- Students will review and build their knowledge and understanding of grammar. Correct spelling and punctuation is an expectation for English class.

Novel Study

- Students will study a novel (with a possibility of a second novel). The title will be determined by teacher with student input. The main elements of fiction (plot, character, setting and theme) will be reinforced with an emphasis on characterization, types of characters, types of conflicts, and an introduction to themes in literature.

Short Stories

- A collection of short stories will be studied with an emphasis on character and theme. Students will be expected to identify symbols and their meanings in various short stories.

Poetry

- Students are introduced to a greater variety of poetic forms and devices to further develop their understanding and enjoyment of poetry. Students will be encouraged to write poetry whenever possible.

Writing

- Students will write for a variety of purposes and intended audiences
- Students will experiment with a variety of formats and activities using descriptive, narrative, persuasive and expository writing while building up to the simple five-paragraph essay.
- Students will be expected to revise, clarify and organize their ideas through the drafting process; self and peer editing will be stressed before the publishing stage.
- Students will be expected to apply the conventions of correct language, usage and grammar in their writing. These concepts will be taught throughout the year by incorporating them into writing assignments.

Oral Work and Assessment:

- All students will present an oral piece of work to their class. The emphasis will be on presenting a specific topic and learning public speaking techniques
- Assessments will come in many forms. When the assignment or project is handed out, you will get an outline and rubric that will clearly state when will be assessed.

Additional Topics;

- Depending on the time throughout the school year, additional topics and ideas will be integrated into the course.

Class Expectations

Classroom Procedures:

- You must arrive to class on time and fully prepared.
- On time means being at your desk, in the classroom, prepared to work when the bell rings.
- Fully prepared means having a working pen, paper, your binder, any textbooks and a USB stick

The objective is to have a classroom where there is a minimum of posted rules and a maximum of respect for others, including your classmates and your teacher. This means that the individual student is responsible for his or her own actions. It also means that the student must listen and behave towards others in the class in a manner that demonstrates respect for themselves as well as other.

Attendance/Absences:

- Regular attendance is **absolutely necessary**.
- Students are responsible for catching up work they have missed due to an excused absence. If you are in the school the day after an absence (the day prior to the next class), see your teacher about missed work so that you can complete it and be ready for the next class.
- If you are absent on the day of the test or the day an assignment is due, be prepared to write the test or hand in the assignment on the first day you return to school.
- If you expect to be absent for an extended period of time, please contact your teacher to make arrangements to complete work, make up tests, and set suitable due dates.
- If you are absent without excuse from a class in which a test was written or an assignment was due, you will receive a zero mark for that test/assignment. It may not be written/submitted at a later date.

Assignments:

- One of the most important things that you can do to maximize your chances of success is to develop good work habits. You will have homework most nights. Even if you do not have any "written" homework, you are expected to review at home the work you do in class each day.
- Incomplete or messy assignments **will not** be accepted.
- Students who submit plagiarized assignments will receive a mark of **ZERO**, their parents will be contacted and they will be referred to the administration.
- Most assignments may be word-processed/typed. Most written compositions will be done in class.
- Include your name, date and title if applicable on all work.

Electronic Devices:

- Devices like computers, tablets and mobile phones can be used in class but only when it is pertaining to the work assigned in class.
- If the teacher feels that you cannot abstain from playing games, no chatting or texting making selfies of yourself during class time, the device shall remain in your school bag or even better, at home.