Communication Arts 1 Syllabus 2016-2017

Ms. Janet McNeill

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**Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to expose students to a variety of literature including short stories, poetry, novels, nonfiction, Shakespearean Drama, and Greek Mythology. Students will learn to analyze readings using literary elements and personal reflection. Ninth grade Comm. Arts students will also improve writing skills by furthering their knowledge of basic grammar skills, as well as focusing on creating more varied sentences and stronger paragraphs in their writing. Students will learn how to write in many forms including narrative, expository, and descriptive. In addition, students will explore the writing process by researching, creating rough drafts, and revising their work.

**Required Materials**

* One composition notebook
* A continuous supply of black or blue ink pens
* One package highlighters
* One small package of Post-Its
* One pair of inexpensive ear buds/headphones
* One box of facial tissue

Please have these materials at school no later than **Monday August 22nd.** I have made every effort to keep this list as simple and inexpensive as possible. I will supply you with other materials needed for projects such as markers, scissors, glue, construction paper, index cards, etc.

**Key Learner Outcomes**

Students will:

1. Establish a background knowledge base of literary themes throughout literature.

2. Identify similarities and differences between authors of literary periods.

3. Compose critical analysis of a variety of literary works, including poetry, drama, short

stories, essays, and novels..

4. Establish a relationship between the literary works studied and the world today.

5. Continue advancement of writing and analytical abilities.

6. Conduct and compile research into a paper using MLA format.

**Classroom Expectations:**

* Make restroom visits before coming to class.
* Be in the room and ready to work by the time the bell rings ready to read independently for 10 minutes..
* Be prepared with all necessary materials.
* Respect the thoughts and ideas of your peers, so that we may have open

 communication (*no put downs, no name-calling, no derogatory comments,*

 *no ridicule, no vulgar language)*.

* Practice classroom civility by raising your hand and waiting to be recognized

 before speaking. We do not shout out or talk over either your teacher or your

 classmates.

* If you come to the door after the class has started, you are tardy. Three tardies in one quarter will result in three days ISS.
* NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES – cell phones, tablets, mp3s, etc. will be taken and turned in to administration. If you have a phone on you, it must be turned OFF in the classroom. If I see your phone or see you looking at it, you will take it to the office and arrangements will be made there for you to pick it up on your own time.
* No food or drinks are allowed in class, except for special occasions determined by the teacher.
* No hats should be worn in the hallway or classrooms. No brushes, combs, mirrors or cosmetics should be used or on display in the classroom.

**Late Assignments:** Major assignments such as essays and projects will be accepted one day late. Please note that following the second day, students can earn a maximum of 70% on the assignment. Classwork/ homework will not be accepted late unless is it a draft for an essay.

**Make-up Policy:** It is the responsibility of each student to make up missed assignments in case of an absence. You will have one day for each day missed to complete assignments. If you are absent on a day an assignment is due, it is due immediately upon your return. If the absence is excused, the assignment will lose no points.

**Re-do Policy:** Ifastudent has a question about a grade, I encourage him/her to discuss this with me before or after school. Students may be asked to re-do a composition assignment in order to help him/her understand more fully the writing process and correct grammar usage.

**Grading Scale**

Reading (comprehension and analysis) - 35%

Writing (composition and grammar) - 35%

Presenting/Publishing - 20%

Researching 10%