

ENGLISH I

Teacher: Mrs. Burke

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The English I course offers a wide variety of reading and writing assignments. The course will emphasize grammar and mechanics; library and research skills; sentence and paragraph construction; elements of literature; and writing for a variety of purposes. Students will read and analyze short stories, a novel, a Shakespearean play, and non-fiction selections.

ASSIGNMENTS AND PROJECTS: Students in this course will have extensive opportunities to become confident and competent readers and writers. Many of the assignments and activities are developmental in that knowledge will be gained and skills acquired and honed. Full participation in this learning process is essential for maximum growth as an accomplished reader and writer. Major projects—the research paper, original short story, critical responses to assigned reading, and others—will serve to demonstrate and showcase the acquisition of knowledge and skills.

GRADING: A letter score will be assigned at the end of each quarter and each semester according to the total points obtained compared to the total points possible. The three categories in which points are assigned include routine assignments and activities; major assignments and projects; and quizzes or tests. Because routine assignments and activities are designed to aid in the learning process rather than serve to measure achievement, points will be awarded based upon level of participation and effort, usually 10 points available for each assignment. Major assignments and projects are designed to apply knowledge and skills. Therefore, the point range will be higher, and scoring guides will be provided to set the expectations and provide objective criteria by which to judge the final product. Quizzes and tests will provide another measure of student learning following units of instruction.

A = 90 - 100 %

B = 80 - 89 %

C = 70 - 79 %

D = 60 - 69 %

MAKE-UP WORK: Students are responsible for asking about, obtaining, and completing any missed work due to excused absences from class. A time frame for completion will be determined after consultation with Mrs. Burke.

LATE WORK: Timely completion of assignments is extremely important to support student learning. However, circumstances occasionally arise which prohibit turning in assignments when due. Students should discuss the reason for the late assignment with Mrs. Burke. Under most circumstances, **routine assignments** must be turned in no later than three class periods after the due date and will receive half credit. **Major assignments and projects** will receive

a 25% deduction in points for each day past due. Should a pattern of late or missing work become established, parents will be notified.

EXTRA CREDIT: Under special circumstances, extra credit may be available. Students should discuss this possibility with Mrs. Burke.

CLASSROOM RULES: Rules are designed to promote a positive and productive learning environment. There are three broad categories under which more specific procedures and standards fall. Listed are a few examples but are not intended to be all-inclusive.

BE RESPECTFUL

Only make positive comments about or to someone.

Leave others' things alone.

Be quiet when someone else is talking or working.

Maintain equipment and materials in an acceptable manner.

Follow teacher direction.

BE READY

Come to class with needed materials.

Be in your seat and ready to work when the bell rings.

Have assignments completed.

BE A PARTICIPANT

Pay attention to the lesson.

Ask questions when you don't understand.

Give good effort to the task assigned.

CONSEQUENCES: These are some of the consequences to expect when rules are not followed and may or may not occur in the order listed.

1. Learning is impaired.
2. A verbal admonition or warning is given.
3. Detention is assigned.
4. A conference is held with the student, parent, and teacher.
5. The student will visit the principal.