

Welcome to English 10!
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The following information will explain the requirements and policies for English 10. Please read through the information on this sheet carefully, and have your parents read through it as well. If you are confused by any of the following information, **please don't hesitate to ask me about it!**

COURSE CONTENT:

One of the reasons that I love English is that it has a place in all other subject areas: you need basic reading, writing, and speaking skills to accomplish a multitude of activities, both in school and beyond. Language helps us to make sense of our lives, and to understand and communicate with others. This year, through reading, writing, listening, speaking, and of course thinking, we will explore several works of literature and how their themes hold relevance in today's world, and in our own lives. These works will also help us begin preparing for the NYS English Common Core Exam, which all students will take in 11th grade. We will also build digital literacy and 21st century learning skills through the use of Google Apps for Education.

RULES & EXPECTATIONS:

1. Always Arrive on Time!
2. Always Come Prepared!
3. Complete Your Work on Time!
4. Give All Work Your BEST Effort!
5. Have a Positive Attitude!
6. Always Be Kind!

*Please refer to the Student Handbook for further policies.

**“Do the best you can until you know better.
Then when you know better, do better.”
--Maya Angelou**

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REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- 3-ring binder (1 inch) for English materials **only**
 - No accordion folders or all-in-one binders
- Plenty of loose-leaf paper
- Writing Utensil
- Novel (when we are working on one)
- I will conduct unannounced materials checks from time to time, which will count as a participation grade for that day – thus, all materials should be brought to class every day!
- If you have trouble getting any of these materials, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can work something out.

ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

- My assignment policy is very simple: **late assignments will not be accepted!**
 - **When is something late?**
 - When it is not turned in at the **beginning of class** on the due date.
 - When it is not turned in within **two** days after returning from illness.
 - When it is not turned in/delivered **on the due date** for a non-illness excused absence (field trips, athletics, etc.).

* If you know you are going to be absent, turn your work in ahead of time or arrange for someone to turn it in for you.

* I realize that we all have lives outside of school. If there is an extenuating circumstance that prevents you from completing an assignment, it is your responsibility to see me/email me so that we can work something out.

Essays/Projects: 10 points will be deducted for each day that an essay or project is late; after **3 days** the essay/project will no longer be accepted, and a ZERO will be placed in the grade book. Essays and projects will always count as **at least** one test grade, so skipping them is highly inadvisable.

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Group Work: There will be numerous times throughout the year when you will work with your peers to complete an assignment or a project. Group work is an important part of learning how to communicate and work with others towards a common goal. While you may split up the workload of a project among the group members, everyone in the group is responsible for the final product, and therefore everyone in the group will receive the same grade for the assignment. It is expected that everyone will contribute equally to the final product, and if one or more members of the group doesn't "pull their weight," the others in the group will motivate that person to do so.

*Note: In some cases, the guidelines for an assignment may require that students work together on one portion of the activity, but complete another portion independently. In such cases, the group will receive the same grade for the group portion of the assignment, but may not receive the same overall grade for the assignment.

BACK WORK:

- If you are absent, **it is expected that you check Google Classroom and/or REMIND for any missed warm up questions, assignments or announcements.**
- You should also check the PICK UP Bin from your respective class in the back of the room for any handouts that you may have missed.
- All back work should be labeled "ABSENT" at the top (by you) to avoid points off. If you are completing a digital assignment, be sure to add a comment on the assignment saying that you were absent.
- Any back work (including quizzes/tests) that is not completed within **three days** of returning to school will result in a zero! (Exceptions may be made for extended absences.)

PLAGIARISM:

Passing off another person's ideas as your own will not be tolerated under any circumstances. If you use another person's ideas in **any way**, you **must** cite that person. We will review citation throughout the year. **Any instances of plagiarism will result in an automatic zero, in addition to disciplinary actions deemed appropriate by administration.**

***Note: Plagiarism is a serious issue and is one of my major pet peeves. DON'T DO IT!**

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GRADING:

Grades will fall into one of three categories. Weighting values are as follows:

- *Major Assignments (Tests, Essays, Projects, etc.): 45%*
- *Minor Assignments (Quizzes, In-Class Work, Homework, etc.): 35%*
- *Participation (Warm Ups, In-Class Work): 20%*

QUIZZES & EXAMS:

Quizzes are a way to ensure that students are completing assigned reading. They may or may not be announced. Exams will always be announced well in advance.

Types of Quizzes:

- Vocabulary
 - Reading
 - Grammar
 - In-Class Writing
 - One Question
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- If you know you are going to be absent on the day of a quiz or exam, you must take the quiz or exam before the absence or on the day you return to school.
 - Any missed quiz or test that is not resolved within three (3) days will result in a zero (0)!

PARTICIPATION:

This is a grade given for your class participation. Warm ups and some in-class assignments will count as participation grades, but there are other factors that impact this grade as well. In most cases, participation will serve as a way to boost your average; however, it **can** hurt your grade in this class. Here's how:

- forgetting to bring a writing utensil on a regular basis
- forgetting to bring your novel
- forgetting to bring your binder
- showing up for class empty-handed

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- not contributing to group work
- after finishing your work, talking to or distracting students who are still working
- being late for class
- being a disruption rather than a positive contributor to class

* If you commit any of these acts on any given day, you will receive a zero for a participation grade, along with any further disciplinary actions deemed necessary.

EXTRA HELP:

If you are having difficulty with anything, I want to help you. Just ask me! I am available for a limited time during the school day, but will also be available before or after school by appointment. I would like each of you to be successful in this class, so if you are struggling with reading, writing, or life in general, be a self-advocate and ask for help!