Mrs. Russell’s English 9 Disclosure Document

Course Description/Overview/Welcome Statement

Welcome to English 9! I’m excited to get to know you and see your progress throughout the year!

This class is intended to help you feel successful as a reader and writer through speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

Learning Expectations

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Be Respectful – This is really my only expectation, but it encompasses many things. Being respectful in my classroom means coming to class on time prepared to learn with the proper materials and mindset. This also means that you participate during class by talking when it’s appropriate and listening to others when they are talking. Please don’t disrespect me or the other students in the class by talking out of turn or using your phone during inappropriate times (more details on my electronics policy further down).

GRADING PROCEDURES

Students will be given both formative (checking for understanding) and summative (assessing learning at the end of a unit) assessments throughout the year. Summative assessments will have rubrics that will be made available to students in advance of the final assessment. Check Canvas for updated information throughout the year.

Assessment of Progress

GRADING PROCEDURES

Term grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

93 – 100 % = A                      77 – 79 % = C+

90 – 92 % = A-                       73 – 76 % = C

87 – 89 % = B+                      70 – 72 % = C-

83 – 86 % = B                        60 – 69 % = D

80 – 82 % = B-                      59% and below = F

Your grade is intended to help you track **your** progress, so cheating, plagiarizing, copying other students, etc. will not be tolerated and will result in a 0 on that assignment. Depending on the severity of the misconduct, you may receive an F as the final grade for that term.

Course Materials

MATERIALS

Please bring to class with you every day:

Notebook – This can be any kind of notebook you want (spiral, composition, binder with lined paper, etc.), but must be dedicated to only this class. We will use part of the notebook as a Writer’s Notebook on a daily basis and a separate part of it for your class notes. There will be a place for you to leave your notebook in my classroom every day, but you may take it home with you if you’d prefer and aren’t going to forget to bring it every day.

Pen/Pencil – I may have a few extra at the beginning of the year, but don’t expect to use them every day.

Independent Reading Book – Reading for even 10 minutes a day can significantly improve reading skills, so you will read for 10 minutes every day at the beginning of class. I have a classroom library from which you may check out books, but you may not check out books during the 10 minutes of reading. You may check out books before or after class.

Other materials:

You will have a textbook assigned to you that will stay in the classroom for your use.

Classroom Procedures

**ELECTRONICS AND CELL PHONE USE**

There will be times that we might use our phones or the classroom Chromebooks during class. When we are not using technology as a class for a lesson, you are to have your phone in your backpack and on silent so that it doesn’t distract you or others. This is in accordance with the school’s policies on cellphone use, but it is also an important skill for you to learn to unplug in order to be respectful when talking or listening to others. I reserve the right to take your phone away from you if it becomes a problem (IE you are texting, listening to music, playing games, etc.).

**LATE/MAKE-UP WORK POLICY**

I want you to succeed in my class, which means you need to be here in class every day unless there is an emergency. If you do have to miss class, you will be responsible to check Canvas for what you missed.

If you miss class, the daily activities (small reading assignments in class, graphic organizers, etc.) will be posted on Canvas at the end of the school day. These assignments may be turned in up to a week late for no penalty. After one week, these assignments will not be accepted, unless we have worked out something together prior to the week’s end. You must email me or come in and talk to be BEFORE your week deadline is up in order to receive more time on any assignment. This means that if you are going to Disneyland and will be missing a week of school, you MUST come in and talk to me before you leave and get the work that you will be missing.

If you miss class on the day a major assignment is due, you must get the assignment to me BEFORE class on that day (unless there is work time in class). You can get it to me in any way (give it to a friend in the class, email, posted on Canvas, etc.), but make sure it gets in. If your major assignment is not in at the beginning of class on the day it is due, you will lose points for turning it in late. These points cannot be made up, but you can still turn in your assignment for credit.

Please be aware that turning in something is better than nothing. I recognize that you are developing skills and the draft you turn in will not be perfect. You will have until the end of the term to revise the piece and turn it in again.

I reserve the right to make accommodations for students on a case-by-case basis.

**CONSEQUENCES OF BEHAVIOR**

Any student who engages in inappropriate behavior according to school policy or my classroom expectations will have appropriate consequences, as follows:

1st offense: receive a verbal reminder (warning)

2nd offense: be moved to a new seat

3rd offense: be required to come in and talk with me either after school or before school

4th offense: call home

5th offense: be required to meet with a school administrator

**Calendar of Due Dates for Major Assignments**

All coursework needs to be turned in on the date it is due. These deadlines will be posted clearly on Canvas for you to check.

IF you have talked to me about a different due date for extenuating circumstances, you must still turn in everything before the end of the term during which we talked. Additionally, if you would like to revise any piece we have worked on throughout the term, it must be turned in before the term is over.

Progress Reports and Report Cards

Grades will be updated regularly and will be available on PowerSchool. You can find Power School at https://grades.provo.edu/public/

Connecting Home to School

A NOTE TO PARENTS

9th grade parents: I am excited to have your student in my class this year! As a ninth grade team, we have a lot of great things planned for our students and I look forward to getting to know your student throughout the year. I hope that you will look over this document carefully and ensure that your student has the materials he/she needs for this class. If that is an issue or if you have any other questions throughout the year, please let me know. I am here to help! I am available by email and will respond as quickly as I can. I am also available before and after school, if you would like to meet in person. Please make an appointment via email so I can make sure I will be available for you.

My contact information: meganru@provo.edu