**English 9 2018-2019**

Ms. Vargo

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**Course overview:**

English 9 marks the transition from middle school to high school English in which students will learn to read more critically and write more analytically. The course will explore relevant themes in a variety of genres including short stories, fiction, poetry, graphic novels and news articles. Students will complete an array of writing tasks as well as participate in activities that will enhance their speaking and listening skills.

**International Baccalaureate:**

Huron IB English is an inquiry-based, collaborative environment where all students will evolve as reflective, global-minded listeners, speakers, readers, and writers.

**Academic Expectations:**

**Critical reading**: We will focus on close reading as well as other reading strategies that will help you become a stronger reader and thinker. It is important to take your time when you are reading and look for layers of meaning rather than rushing through to complete an assignment. You will sometimes be expected to read independently and to be prepared to discuss your observations in class.

**Texts:**

*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

*Maus II*  by Art Spiegelman

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*  by Sherman Alexie

*Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare

*To Kill a Mockingbird*  by Harper Lee

Various articles, poems, short stories, and films

\* Texts are subject to change at the teacher’s discretion

**Writing:** Writing involves a process and strong writers develop through practice. You will be asked to perform a variety of writing tasks both formally and informally. This will include quick writes, creative writing, augmentative writing, and formal analytical essays. We will focus on developing your writing skills by targeting organization, ideas and content, and voice.

**Participation:** Do your best to be fully engaged and participate in class activities. Participation includes contributing to discussions and listening actively. While everyone has their own style and comfortability level when it comes to sharing, it is important for you to be involved in class in whatever way works best for you. Challenge yourself to increase your level of involvement and expand your comfort zone.

**Grading:**

**Scale Weighting**

93-100 A **Semester grade:**

90-92 A- Quarter 1- 40%

87-89 B+ Quarter 2- 40%

83-86 B Final exam- 20%

80-82 B-

77-79 C+ **Quarter grade:**

73-76 C Summative assessments -60%

70-72 C- (essays, projects, and tests)

67-69 D+

63-66 D Formative assessments-40%

60-62 D- (homework, quizzes, and classwork)

0-59 E

**Behavior Expectations:**

**Respect:** Respect is the essential foundation for a successful learning environment. As long as you are mindful of other people’s feelings and act accordingly, you shouldn’t have a problem. Be polite and if you disagree with someone, express it in a respectful manner. Every student has a right to a positive and productive learning environment. In order to protect that right, you should avoid disrupting the learning of others. If your actions are disruptive to others, consequences will follow.

**Attendance/tardiness**: You are expected to be on time and avoid absences whenever possible. Excessive absences may hinder your success in class. If you need to be absent, it is your responsibility to follow up on the assignments that you missed when you return. You can access this information by checking the absent folder, visiting my website at **meganvargo.weebly.com**, or discussing it with me in person at an appropriate time.

**Absent work:** You have the number days that you missed class plus one additional day to make up absent work. If you are absent on the day an essay or project is due, you are expected to turn it in the day you return

**Late work:** Classwork and homework assignments that are not turned in at the beginning of class on the day that they are due will be considered late and will result in a 50% point deduction. Late essays and projects will be deducted 10% per day.

**Honesty and Plagiarism:** Any paper with your name on it signifies that you are the author -- that the wording and the ideas are yours, with exceptions indicated by quotation marks and citations. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of others' materials (words and ideas). Evidence of plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment and repeated offenses could result in more serious consequences. If you help someone else cheat, you will face the same consequences as the person who copied your work.

**Cell Phones and Electronic Devices:** Cell phones and electronic devices should be stored at all times unless permitted by the teacher for academic purposes. Please keep them out of sight out of respect for the learning environment. If you have them out at inappropriate times, they may be confiscated*.* ***In order to maintain academic integrity, it is especially important that electronic devices are stored during assessments. Failure to comply may result in a zero on your assessment.***

**Materials:**

* Course text
* Paper or notebook
* Folder or another way to keep your work organized
* Pen or pencil
* Highlighters in a few different colors

**Student/Parent Contract for Ms. Vargo’s Class**

**Return by Friday, September 7th**

Student Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Class Period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read this course syllabus and understand Ms. Vargo’s policies and procedures and agree to abide by them.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (student)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (parent)

**Information provided by the Parent/Guardian: (Required)**

Parent/Guardian Names: (PLEASE print)

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Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Does your child have any special needs that I should know about? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is there any other information you feel I should be aware of?

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**Thank you!**

**I look forward to getting to know you this semester!**

**If you have any questions, feel free to contact me!**