

# Course Overview

This course is designed to meet the needs of high-achieving students performing beyond grade level in English. Although the units of study share the same conceptual focus as English 9, the course challenges the student's ability to reason, synthesize, research, speak and write. In addition, students engage in advanced reading, writing as analysis and as assessment, and presentation of research. Students enrolled in this class are expected to attend class regularly, to consistently meet deadlines, and to have a willingness to work at a fast pace, and to work outside of class time when necessary.

## Contact Info

Please note that email is the preferred method of contact!

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Web: <https://www.westada.org/Page/21675>

# Welcome to Honors English 9



**MS. SLETAGER**

Room 401

# Class Expectations

## Be Kind & Respectful.



In this classroom you will be expected to be kind and courteous to all classmates, teachers, guests, and all classroom materials. This also means not touching things that are not yours, or that you don't have permission to touch. No exceptions. I have no tolerance for cruelty and disrespect, and I will hold you to a high standard in this area.

## Be Prepared.



This means in the classroom, in your seat, with your phone turned in, and all the necessary supplies before the bell rings. You will not be allowed to retrieve forgotten items so bring them to class!

## Be Engaged.



Participate in classroom discussions and activities. Be aware of due dates and upcoming assignments. Be proactive when it comes to your grade. Work hard.

# Focus Areas

## Writing focus:

Narrative, literary analysis and other literary responses, argument, and other research (including proper MLA citations and grammar)

## Reading focus:

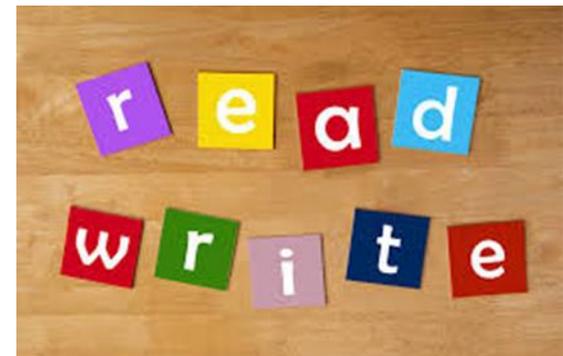
Reading strategies, non-fiction text and literary analysis, examining author's purpose, citing text evidence, determining themes and other literary elements

## Speaking/Listening focus:

Literary discussions, research presentations, Socratic seminars

## Literature focus:

Various short stories, essays, news pieces, poems, *The Little Prince*, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, *I am Malala*, & *The Taming of the Shrew*



# Suggested Materials

- 1-1.5 inch three ring binder and loose leaf paper (this can be included in a larger binder with other courses if you choose) OR notebook with folders.
- A couple packs of post-its/sticky notes
- Pink, yellow, and green highlighters
- Writing utensils (must have a black or blue pen)
- Colored pencils, or markers
- Lastly, and this is **NOT** a requirement, but if you have, or can purchase personal copies of any of the selected novels it will help you immensely with note taking and reading strategies! Again, this is not a requirement!



# Class Procedures

- **Starting class:** you will be expected to be in your seat, working on your “Bell Ringer” as the bell rings. On occasion bell ringers will be turned in for credit so make sure you are doing your bell ringers daily! Phones/headphones need to be in the vault as well!
- **Ending class:** the bell does not excuse you, I do. If you are out of your seat or lining up at the door I will hold you as a class past the bell!
- **Hall passes:** you will be allowed to leave the classroom use the restroom within reason. If I notice that you are taking advantage of your hall passes or are gone for an excessive amount of time I will restrict your hall pass usage. If you need to retrieve forgotten items from class, you will receive a tardy to do so.
- **Absences:** if you are absent it is your responsibility to visit me during MAV time, or right after school. I WILL NOT talk to you about missing work during class instruction time, or in the 6 minutes before class starts. You will be able to find most materials on the class website!
- **MAV Time:** Is a voluntary study hall for students who need additional support. Students should attend MAV Time for the class they are struggling in the most; however, students should be aware of each teacher’s individual MAV Time schedule and policy.
  - I hold MAV Time Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings in my classroom 7:15-7:40 AM.

# Grades

This class uses a grading philosophy called Standards-Referenced Grading. That means that your final grade consists entirely of assessments (papers, discussions, projects, and more!)

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## *Standards-Referenced Grading*

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### **Late Work.**

Late work will be accepted for full credit until the end of the unit.

### **Reassessments.**

I do not provide extra credit opportunities in my class; however, I will provide opportunities to do extra/alternate assignments, or rework assignments for more credit. To be eligible for reassessment you cannot have ANY missing assignments!

# What is Standards Referenced Grading?

### **Purpose.**

The purpose of standards-reference grading is to improve student achievement by focusing instruction with the essential outcomes identified through the curriculum process.

### **Proficiency.**

Standards-referenced grading focuses on measuring students' proficiency on a specific set of outcomes, or essential learnings. These outcomes are shared with students at the outset of the course. Students will also receive proficiency scales that explain the essential learnings in detail, as well as the requirements to reach proficiency.

### **Key Understandings.**

- A student's grade should reflect academic learning.
- The primary purpose of assessment and grading is to provide detailed feedback to inform student learning.
- Learning is a process that takes place over time and at different speeds for different students.
- Everything that happens in a classroom should support and build on a set of essential outcomes which are shared with students.
- A coordinated assessment and grading system, both among common course teachers and throughout the school, clarifies the expectations for all students and maximizes academic opportunities.