English 9 with Mrs. Clay Landstown High School & Technology Academy

Course Overview & Classroom Expectations 2014 - 2015

Welcome to 9th Grade English, Class of 2018!

 As your freshman English teacher, let me be among the first to welcome you to Landstown High School! To best prepare you for this class (and your transition to high school), I have created this FYI sheet for you and your parents to review. Please read it, sign it, and place it in the front of your English binder. I firmly believe that if you understand the information found here, positively participate in class, and complete assignments on time, you will have a successful year in English. As your teacher, I am here to facilitate your success. Take advantage of all opportunities to build your knowledge and skills. I am ready to see the very best you can do!

Contact Information & Schedule

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I will do my best to respond within 24 hours.

 Email leighanne.clay @vbschools.com (757) 619-1845 cell/text

1A Planning English Office 1B Planning English Office

2A Journalism Room 212 2B English 9 Room 212

3A Journalism Room 212 3B English 11 Honors Room 212

4A Study Block Room 212 4B English 11 Honors Room 212

* I am available to work with students during my 4A Study Block or after school by appointment.

Materials

For my class, you are expected to be prepared with all necessary materials:

* Texts – *Holt McDougal Literature (*replacement cost: $98.49), *Write Source* (replacement cost: $41.50)
* Novels - VBCPS provides all novels; however, the replacement cost for any novel if lost or damaged is $10.00.
* Three-ring binder with loose-leaf paper - Keep it organized with a Table of Contents (TOC).
* Pencils, blue/black pens
* Landstown High School Planner (replacement cost $7.00)
* 2 pocket folder to be used as your WIP (Works in Progress) Folder which will generally be kept in the classroom
* Non-spiral composition book for class warm-up activities.
* Flash drive to use for writing assignments and research (optional, but highly encouraged)
* I will have Post-It notes, markers, colored pencils, and highlighters for you to use during class, but you are welcome to use your own. ☺

Grading Policies

* I will use a total points grading system. Your grade is determined by the total points received divided by the total points possible. Generally, homework will count 3-5 points, classwork will count 10-15 points, quizzes will count 20-30 points, final drafts of writing assignments will count 30-50 points, and projects and tests will count 100 points. This scale helps me place appropriate emphasis on course objectives and assessments.
* Student grades are available for viewing through the Parent Portal which will be updated on a weekly basis. I will follow the VBCPS grading scale, which can be found online or in your student planner.
* I will take notes on every student’s behavior and participation daily. Positive class participation (including actively listening to others, asking and answering meaningful questions, making an effort, following directions, engaging in class discussions, reading independently when work is finished, etc…) will affect a student’s grade **positively**. Negative class participation (such as sleeping, inattention, unnecessary talking, interrupting others, missing materials, missing assignments, creating a disruption, etc…) will affect a student’s grade **negatively**. If a problematic pattern persists, I will involve parents, counselors, and administrators.
* The LHS Honor Code will be enforced on all assignments, large and small. Never claim another’s work/words as your own. Violations will result in a zero, a gradebook notation, and possible disciplinary action.
* Extra credit assignments will be offered at least once per grading period. Bonus questions on quizzes and tests will be offered frequently.

Classroom Procedures/Student Conduct

* **Be in class every day**! The attendance policy can be found in the planner. Remember that some missed assignments can be made up after an absence; however, class discussions and group work cannot.
* **Be on time**! Be in your seat and ready to work when the bell rings. I will enforce the tardy policy outlined in the school planner. *Expect me to enforce all VBCPS policies.*
* **Bring the assigned books and materials each day**.
* **Participate appropriately in class and small group discussions**. Your contributions will show your intelligence, preparation, and motivation, all of which benefit your grade.
* **Be polite and respectful to others at all times**. Be aware of your tone of voice and the timing of your comments. If you have a question or comment, please use good manners.

Homework, Late Work, & Make-up Work

* Since reading and writing cannot be completed during class time alone, homework will be assigned regularly. All assignments will be posted on Mrs. Clay’s website: <http://leighanneclay2014.weebly.com>
* Homework assignments will always be checked for completion and effort. Your work will not go unnoticed!
* Late homework will be accepted for my review, but not for credit (unless it is following an excused absence).
* For larger assignments (such as writing assignments or projects) which are turned in late, students will receive a maximum of 75%, which is a C.
* Academic detention may be assigned at the teacher’s discretion for missing, incomplete, or failing grades. I will do whatever I can to keep you from failing!
* When you return from an absence, check the classroom make-up work folder. Read through the missed lesson plan and attached handouts. Immediately, make a plan to complete all missed assignments. It is your responsibility to turn in any missed homework or classwork. If you have questions or need additional help, please check our class website, email me, or call so that we can make a plan to keep you on track.
* All work needs to be made up promptly following an absence, including ISS and OSS.

Writing, Projects. & Reading Assignments

* Students will be writing nearly every day in my class! Some assignments will be short and simple while others will follow the multi-step, writing process. Final drafts must be typed or written in blue or black ink.
* You will keep all writing assignments in your Works in Progress (WIP) folder in my classroom. During the second semester, you will be asked to compile, polish, evaluate, and present your work in a portfolio. Specific guidelines with incremental deadlines will be communicated at that time.
* Short and long presentations that incorporate technology will be given each semester. Library research projects and persuasive writing will be assigned each grading period.
* In accordance with the BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) VBCPS School Board Policy, “students may be allowed to use personal portable communication devices in class for instructional purposes only when permitted by the instructor.” I will provide appropriate guidelines for use of personal devices. Violations of the guidelines will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and school rules.
* As a 9th grade English student, you will have the opportunity to study all genres of literature in addition to these major literary works: *Canyons* by Gary Paulsen, *October Sky* by Homer Hickam, *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie, *Boy* by Roald Dahl, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, and *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare.

Signatures and Contact Information

I am genuinely looking forward to working with each of you and hope this year will be successful in every way! For my records, please sign this sheet indicating that you have read and understood the class expectations for English 9. If you have any comments or questions, please call me or send me an email.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Signature

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature