**Miss Wright- English 9**
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**Course Description:**

Our main objective in English 9 is to establish the skills necessary to perform in a high school classroom setting so that all students will be college and career ready by graduation at the end of their senior year.  Students are expected to build upon skills learned in previous English courses related to grammar, reading comprehension, literary analysis, and written expression through active and deliberate study.  The course will use a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts, integrating topics on science, technology, and history into our daily reading, writing, and discussion. Essential skills covered in our lessons will adhere to the Common Core State Standards for 9th grade.
*(Detailed explanations of these standards can be found at:* [*http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/*](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/)*)*

The Honors course for English 9 is an accelerated learning program with rigorous expectations for advanced students which will prepare them for AP courses and other higher learning options throughout their high school years and beyond graduation.

As freshmen, students will also learn habits and skills in relation to conduct, organization, and school-wide expectations that will ensure their continued life success. Throughout the course, students will reflect on the following **essential questions** and will be invited to apply the knowledge they acquire within the broader context of their lives.

1. What factors contribute to an individual’s identity? How do reading and writing help us express and reflect on our own identity as individuals?
2. How do reading and writing help shape our identity, culture, and society? How do identity, culture, and society shape the ideas expressed in text and why are some of those ideas considered “universal”?
3. How do conflicts and adversity help develop our identity? In stories, how does conflict help develop complex characters and how do a character’s choices affect the plot and theme?
4. How does the setting of a story affect the characters, plot, and/or theme?
5. How do writers effectively craft a text to address various tasks, purposes, and audiences? How do the structure and diction of a text affect a reader’s interpretation of its meaning?
6. How can literary and/or nonfiction texts work cooperatively to develop alternate or comparable stances on a central idea or theme?
7. How do writers develop a good thesis through questioning, research, analysis, and synthesis? How do writers develop the central idea of a text through the use of effective evidence and rhetoric?
8. How can we use technology to effectively enhance the process of reading, writing, and communication?
9. How and why are ideas presented in texts interpreted and transformed by others across cultural contexts and various artistic mediums?
10. How do individuals communicate and collaborate effectively to reach a common goal?

**Materials Required for Class:**

* Composition notebook (No spiral notebooks)
* 1 inch binder with pockets and at least 3 tab dividers
* One or all of the following: glue stick, clear scotch tape, small stapler & staples
* Flash Drive (at least 8 GB)
* Writing Utensils (pen or pencil)
* Highlighters (multiple colors)
* Loose leaf notebook paper
* Personal headphones (ONLY FOR USE WITH SPECIFIC COMPUTER ASSIGNMENTS)
* Access to computer and internet (see me ASAP if there is a conflict here!)
* Optional materials: Post it Notes (any color, 3”x3” is best)

Students will be provided with textbooks and classroom novels as needed. If a textbook or novel is assigned for a student to take home, they will be responsible for paying a fine if it is lost or damaged when returned. Students may choose to purchase his or her own copy of any whole class novel.

**Classroom Donations:***While many students at our school are able to purchase materials for all of their classes, others struggle to do so as a result of circumstances beyond their control. This can be especially true later in the school year when supplies begin to run out. Our class would greatly appreciate any additional materials that you might be willing to donate to help our classmates in need. We could use any of the materials listed above as well as tissues, hand sanitizer, cleaning wipes, paper towels, etc. Thank you for considering our fellow students in need and for helping to ensure that every student has the opportunity to be successful!*

**Grading Policy:**Grades will be distributed according to county policy (See table below). Students are expected to independently check their grades through the family portal (<https://x2.wcboe.org/x2sis/logon.do>) and communicate with their teacher frequently with questions or concerns about their progress in meeting the course objectives.

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| **Formative Assessment (50%)** | **Summative Assessment (50%)** |
| Participation, Classwork, Homework\* | Extended Writing Assignments, Quizzes, Projects |

\*Homework: Students will be assigned weekly reading and writing assignments throughout the year to complete outside of class time. Many of these assignments will require access to a computer that is connected to the internet. Students will not be excused from online assignments if they do not have access at home. There will be some class time allocated for students to complete out of class assignments, and students who do not have access at home will be expected to make use of guided study hall, after school tutoring, or community resources to complete their assignments. In most cases, absence from school will not excuse students from completing assigned homework.\*

**Late work** may be accepted but will receive a grade deduction of 5-50% depending on the circumstances and the assignment. No missing assignments will be accepted after specific cut off dates that will be announced in class prior to the middle and end of each term. Students are responsible for providing a reasonable explanation or proof of legitimate reason for missing deadlines. Situations will be handled on a case by case basis. Both the student and teacher, and if necessary, a parent or guardian, will meet to reach a consensus.

**Make Up Work:**

Per WHS policy, if a student is absent from school, they will be given one additional day for every day absent to complete any work they might have missed and submit it for grading. *(Ex. 2 days absent is equal to 4 days to make up missed assignments)* Students are responsible for obtaining their own missed assignments and for arranging a time to meet with me if they need any additional assistance in completing their work. Work will be located in the absent work bin in the classroom in the folder that corresponds with the student’s English class period.

**Tutoring:**

Students are encouraged to utilize Guided Study Hall (GSH) whenever they need additional help outside of class. A pass for GSH (every day 5th period) must be obtained from Miss Wright prior to attending. Students must also obtain permission from their 5th period teacher and follow all Guided Study Hall procedures to attend. English tutoring will also available at the Tribe After School Program (TAP), Monday through Thursday from 3-4 pm. By signing up on the day they want to stay, students will receive a free meal in the café at 2:45 and will report to tutoring upon dismissal from the café. Miss Wright will announce which days she will be available for tutoring at TAP when the program starts. Additionally, if students are unable to stay for tutoring at school, they may email Miss Wright anytime with questions about course materials and assignments. Emails may not be answered after 10 pm.

**Classroom Procedures and Expectations:**Our classroom procedures are designed to ensure a comfortable, safe learning environment with as few distractions as possible. Students should be familiar with expectations and conduct themselves accordingly.

* Enter the classroom calmly, and gather needed materials as directed before sitting in assigned seat.
* Start the daily assignment independently and promptly at the start of class.
* Listen carefully to both the teacher and your peers. Our class is built on a foundation of mutual respect and all members are expected to participate.
* Participation is 10% of your formative assessment grade. To get the most out of our class discussions and activities, it is essential that everyone be actively engaged. You are accountable for the amount of effort you put into managing your materials and behavior during class.
* Stay organized and turn in assignments on time. You are the only person who determines your final grade. Maintain communication with your teacher regarding your progress in class and use their feedback in setting goals for future assignments.
* Only ask to leave class to use the bathroom after the first ten minutes of class and before the last ten minutes. Only ask to leave when it is an appropriate time that will not disrupt class. Carry the designated hall pass at all times. Be respectful and responsible in the hallway and return to class in a timely manner.
* Remain in your assigned seat unless otherwise directed to turn in materials, etc.
* Respect other people’s property: that of your peers, your teacher, and your school.
* Adhere to county and school wide expectations regarding dress code, cell phone and head phone usage, profanity, eating/drinking, etc.
* Only clear water bottles filled with water are allowed out in class. Please use responsibly so as not to damage any materials. You are responsible for any mess you make. No food or gum will be permitted.

**Electronic Devices and Technology Use:**

Cell phones should remain put away during class time unless you are given direct permission to have it out for academic use. Although earbuds and headphones are permitted in the halls, breezeways, and cafeteria at WHS, they should be put away at the start of class and should not be taken out unless I have given explicit permission for students to use them during a class activity. It is against school policy to use headphones for any purpose in any classroom that is not related to academics. Students are expected to follow all classroom procedures and policies regarding the safe and appropriate use of technology. Students are expected to be respectful in online interactions with their peers. Refusal or failure to follow classroom, school, and county technology policies may result in a loss of privileges and/or further behavior interventions or consequences.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism will not be tolerated on any assignment as it is a form of academic dishonesty and goes against our PBIS values of Respect, Responsibility, and Integrity. Plagiarism is defined as turning in any work that is not your own and expecting credit for it. This may include work that you have copied from a peer, work completed by someone other than yourself, work that you have copied from a web source without proper citation, any work that you did not create but altered to a slight degree, etc. Plagiarized assignments will receive a zero and cannot be made up. Parents/Guardians will be notified of any infraction and the consequences received. Subsequent infractions will also not receive credit and the student may be referred to an administrator. Students in Honors classes who are caught plagiarizing may not be recommended for future advanced placement courses or for the National Honor Society.

**Discipline Procedure:**Students are expected to develop skills of self-discipline and are ultimately responsible for their own choices and any consequences suffered as a result. At WHS, we follow a progressive discipline plan. Consequences may be adapted to suit the given circumstances. If a student does not follow classroom, school, or county expectations for behavior, the following steps will be taken:

1. Student/Teacher conference regarding behavior (written or verbal)

2. Contact home by phone or email/Classroom Intervention

3. Teacher detention/Additional Classroom Intervention

4. Office referral/Sent to Academic Recovery Room (D9)

These steps are for minor infractions that repeatedly disrupt the learning environment. Major issues that pose a threat to the safety of the student or others will be immediately referred to administration and removed from the classroom.