

**Advanced Placement Language & Composition / 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors English**  
**Tesla STEM High School 2018-2019**  
**Mrs. Kendra Lednicky**  
**Email: klednicky@lwsd.org**  
**Room 213**

Office Hours: 6:30-7:30am Monday-Friday (appointment not required, but appreciated)

**Course Description:**

The English Language and Composition class is based on critical reading, reading and writing skills, and argumentation. Our texts will build these skills using American literature, literature related to STEM, and a variety of primary and secondary sources and documents that support the students' understanding of rhetoric. Students, in agreement with the College Board's course description, will "synthesize material from these texts in their own compositions and [learn] to cite sources." Works we will study could include:

- *The Language of Composition* by Shea, Scanlon, and Dissin-Aufses
- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- *Hillbilly Elegy* by JD Vance
- *Between the World and Me* by Ta Naehsi Coates
- *Night* by Elie Wiesel
- Holocaust, Civil Rights, Japanese incarceration, and human rights excerpts, articles and essays
- Selected columns, articles and essays from various authors
- Documentary films
- Current events, pop culture, and commentary via magazines, newspapers, video, and audio
- Supplemental political cartoons, advertisements, film clips, artworks, websites, poems, graphs and charts
- Released items from previous AP Language exams

This class is grounded in analysis and argument of frequently controversial subjects. We will look at both historical and current events and examine all sides of issues. The goal is not to come to consensus, but to understand how to listen, analyze and argue in an intelligent and effective way. In a year when the political rhetoric has become so polarizing, there are bound to be discussions that are somewhat controversial in nature. We will learn to look at context, evidence, frames of reference, and counter-arguments. At all times, and in agreement with the district's parameters, I require civility and inclusivity in discussions.

**Supply list:**

- |                                       |                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ○ Composition notebook—college ruled  | ○ Red, blue, and black ballpoint pens (+ one extra color of your choice) |
| ○ Dedicated folder/binder for English | ○ College ruled paper (loose-leaf)                                       |
| ○ 3x5 notecards                       | ○ Sticky notes (regular and mini sized for annotations)                  |
| ○ #2 Pencils                          |                                                                          |
| ○ Highlighters (3 colors)             |                                                                          |

**Course Objectives**

Throughout the year, you will work to develop skills important to Language and Composition. These are adapted from the College Board and include:

- Defining and using a wide-ranging vocabulary appropriately and effectively

- Demonstrating stylistic maturity in writing by utilizing logical organization, a variety of sentence structures (subordination and coordination), effective strategies, and specific techniques to increase coherence, such as repetition, transitions, and emphasis
- Reading a variety of nonfiction selected to effectively identify and explain and author's use of rhetorical devices and strategies
- Analyzing and interpreting graphics and visual images both in relation to written texts and as alternative forms of text themselves
- Composing in several forms, including analytical, narrative, expository, and argumentative, both formally and informally about a variety of subjects and including a balance of generalization and specific, illustrative detail
- Producing compositions that introduce a claim and developing them with appropriate evidence drawn from primary and/or secondary sources, cogent sources and cogent explanations
- Revising a work to make it suitable for a different audience, to mimic a different style, or to effectively use tone, voice, diction, and sentence structure
- Developing research skills and demonstrating correct APA conventions and style
- Creating and sustaining arguments based on readings, research, and/or personal experiences

### **Student Expectations:**

1. Be respectful
2. Work with integrity

You are expected to come to class with our current class novel or assignment and your laptops. It is your responsibility to check **PowerSchool, the online Learning Management System (LMS)** adopted by the Lake Washington School District for assignment due dates and announcements. A current calendar will also always be posted in OneNote. In OneNote you will also find assignment descriptions and any other class materials you need. **Always check PowerSchool and OneNote daily.**

### **Cell Phone Policy:**

Cellphones should be turned on silent and kept in your backpack **at all times**. If I see it out, I will take it away without warning. If you have an emergency phone call to make, please let me know and you may use the classroom phone.

### **Assignment & Latework Policy:**

You are expected to come to class with your assignment completed (and/or printed or uploaded, if required) on the date it is due. Homework is due at the beginning of class and is a valuable part of the learning process. It is your responsibility to verify that PowerSchool or Turnitin.com has received your assignment. You should be able to view your submissions in PowerSchool. Turnitin offers a preview screen to confirm and sends a confirmation email. Make sure you received that email or can confirm your upload is in your library in order to avoid late penalties.

Because you will miss out on important foundational skills if you get off track, **late daily homework assignments are not accepted.** Larger papers or projects will result in a deduction of 20% and will only be accepted up to 5 school days after the original due date. Use a planner, check PowerSchool, or find a

system that works for you to keep track of your responsibilities. If your first plan of attack doesn't work, work on your problem-solving skills, and **develop a Plan B**. If you cannot print, you can email it to me by 7:30 a.m. on the day that it is due.

Parents, to see if your student turned in an assignment, please use their login and password to access Turnitin.com, PowerSchool, or OneNote. This way you can see exactly what they turned in and when it was completed.

### **Grading Policy:**

You will receive a progress report after the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters, but quarter grades are cumulative throughout each semester. Grades are based on the following percentage system:

A = 90-100%

B+ = 87-89%

B = 83-86%

B - = 80-82%

C+ = 77-79%

C = 73-76%

C - = 70-72%

NC = 69% and below

### **Student absences/Make-up policy:**

You are responsible for finding out what you missed when you are absent. Check PowerSchool and OneNote for assignments and due dates when you are gone and check with a classmate for discussion notes. Handouts can be found on OneNote or check with me. Homework is due on the 3 school days after you return. **Make-up quizzes/tests are due within the week they are assigned or within two (2) days of returning to school—these are YOUR responsibility to schedule and must be made up during office hours—not during class.** Short absences will not extend the due date of long-term projects. Students going on vacation are expected to notify me in advance so we can develop a plan that will work for both of us. **In order to maintain your grade, it is crucial that you make up all work in a timely manner and that you do not have excessive absences or tardies.**

### **Academic Honesty:**

In this class, you have opportunities to share ideas and collaborate on projects. However, you are entirely responsible for your own work. All forms of cheating, plagiarism, or fabrication, including submitting any work product that the student misrepresents as his or her work product for the purpose of fulfilling any assignment or task required as part of the student's course of studies is considered dishonest. This includes the unauthorized use of electronic devices, the use of unauthorized material or unauthorized communication of any kind during testing, **and the aiding and abetting of academic dishonesty of others.** If you choose to disregard these guidelines, you will receive a zero on the offending assignment or test. If the behavior continues, you will not receive credit for the course. Please ask me or another teacher if you are concerned about correctly citing sources or if you are concerned about appropriate times and/or ways to share/collaborate your work with others. Throughout the year, you will be required to submit most projects/papers to [www.Turnitin.com](http://www.Turnitin.com).

### **Communication/Office Hours:**

E-mail is best when trying to communicate with me, but please use proper e-mail etiquette (we will go over this the first day of class). I will respond within 48 hrs on a school day. I check my e-mail during the school day only, so please be sure to ask questions for assignments due the next day in class. Office hours are for your benefit to get one on one time with me. Please to not wait until the last minute to come and get help!

### **Questions on Grades**

If you have an issue with a grade that you earned and want to discuss the grading process, you must follow the following steps:

1. E-mail me with questions about the grade or quiz. I will respond within 48 hours.
2. If that does not answer your concern, you can **make an appointment** with me within 5 days of the assignment being handed back to you. This meeting will be between the student and teacher **only**.
3. If there are still concerns, the parent may request a meeting with me. I will schedule this meeting within 5 days of the request and your counselor or administrator may also be asked to join.
4. If there is still an issue, you will schedule a meeting with your counselor.
5. If you and your counselor cannot solve the issue, administration will get involved.

If there is an issue and you communicate with the administration team or counseling team first, they will re-direct you back to me to complete the above process.

### **Letters of Recommendation**

If you would like me to write a letter of recommendation for you, you must fill out the Letter of Recommendation Request Form in OneNote located in the Class Resources tab and e-mail to me. I must receive this form via e-mail 5 weeks before you need to letter. I will only write 20 letters of recommendation on a first come first served basis.

### **Dress Up Guidelines**

We will regularly have presentations in class in which you will be required to dress up. This means no jeans, khakis, brown shoes, open toed shoes, leggings, cotton dresses, sweats, or other informal options. Please let me know if this will be an issue. The recommended attire is black shoes, black slacks or skirt, and a button up shirt or blouse.

Cut here and return bottom portion \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My signature below indicates that I have read and understand the course description and expectations for tenth grade honors English at STEM. I agree to abide by the policies and procedures outlined herein. I understand I am responsible for my own actions, behaviors, and academic performance.

STUDENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_