

SYLLABUS: ENGLISH 9 HONORS

MS. FORT

Office Hours: M - F, 7:00-7:30 a.m. and M, Th, F 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

General Notes:

1. On average, there will be one graded assignment per week. They will all be posted on PowerSchool and in Skyward on or before the day they are assigned. Assignments will range in scope from journal entries valued at 10 points to major presentations valued at 50. The course is designed that no one assignment should be able to cause you to fail the semester. There is no extra credit in this class.
2. **KEEPING TRACK OF WORK: SKYWARD IS THE KEY!**
This course is not as heavy on quizzes and tests as it is on written assignments and presentations worked on over a period of time. Scores will be posted ASAP after the due date. Missing assignments will receive a zero and be marked as missing, but this is not permanent. You are welcome to meet with me to engage in timely, open minded negotiations about grades on specific assignments or what to do about late work. The goal is to teach students the skill of independently representing themselves.
3. Course materials – Notebook w/ lined paper and district issued laptop.
4. For the speech final at the end of 1st semester you will be asked to dress in “business attire.” I will show a PowerPoint that describes business attire in full detail, but it means no shorts, sneakers, t-shirts, yoga pants, etc. Please note you are welcome to borrow clothes from relatives or friends or assemble an outfit at a thrift store.

First Semester:

1. Writing Lab – you will address questions inspired by “The Grand Challenges of Engineering” to practice fluency in synthesizing sourced information with their interpretation and analysis.
2. *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba – Our first novel of the year is the autobiography of a young innovator and inventor in Malawi. Supporting texts include Kamkwamba’s TED Talk and articles relating to world hunger.
3. *The Odyssey* by Homer -- Students will be asked to examine the story in depth, but they will also be asked to explore its profound impact on the very concept of storytelling throughout history. Supplemental texts will be wide-ranging and include Ovid’s Icarus and a documentary on Mycenaean culture.
4. The Great Debate – Students will be divided into teams to conduct a formal Lincoln-Douglass debate on a topic provided by the teacher. Students will be expected to demonstrate in-depth research, rhetorical skills, teamwork, and professional presentation skills. We will study and practice the skills of debating before the final event. (Full disclosure: this is usually the most popular event of the year!)

5. Semester 1 Final: The final is in the form of a speech. Students will be given three topics from which they will choose one to write and present an original, engaging, professional and academic speech.

Second Semester:

1. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou – Students will explore this award-winning autobiography.
2. Problem-Based Learning Project – students will be asked to produce work that addresses the role of sub-cultures, and how STEM can contribute to them, within a society.
3. *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare – Students will embark on an in-depth study of this play.
4. 2nd Semester Final – This will be based on *Romeo & Juliet*.

Student Expectations:

You are expected to be respectful, responsible, cooperative, and participative. You are also expected to come to class with our current class novel and your district-assigned laptop. Plan to regularly check Power School and Skyward. Personal electronics are not to be used in class and could result in the loss of your device until the end of the school day.

There is no eating in the classroom unless you have a documented medical condition. Roll will be taken daily.

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 and 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 (this includes test, quizzes, homework and in-class assignments). This also 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**. 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.

Communication/Office Hours:

You or your parents may always contact me by e-mail, afort@lwsd.org, regarding any comments, questions, or concerns. I will respond within 48 hours during the work week. I am also available to meet by appointment during office hours. Please do not wait until you are overwhelmed to meet with me. Together we can develop a plan to help you get on track; I am here to help you get the most out of my class.



Please read and discuss these expectations carefully with your parent/guardian and have them sign below. Then provide your signature.

Return the bottom, signed page to
Ms. Fort by Friday, September 7.

Ms. Fort
9th Grade Honors English
Syllabus
2018-19 school year

STUDENT NAME (PRINT)

_____, _____
(last) (first)

My signature recognizes that I have read and understand the course description and expectations for ninth grade honors English at STEM. I understand I am responsible for my own actions, behaviors, and academic performance. If I have questions or concerns, I will speak to Ms. Fort directly.

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PARENT EMAIL ADDRESS: _____