**Mrs. Dowd                        English 9H                                                 2016-17**

**An English Honors Student is a person who:**

Ø  is an independent learner

Ø  loves literature and language

Ø  draws inferences from what he or she reads

Ø  is an excellent expository writer

Ø  enjoys writing creatively often without having been given an assignment

Ø  has a strong background with grammar, usage, and mechanics

Ø  has an extensive vocabulary and is interested in learning more about words

Ø  is willing to devote time to reading each night in order to be successful

Ø  is excited about sharing his/her ideas in class

Ø  is happy to come to English every day!

**CURRICULUM**

The 9th-grade honors curriculum is challenging in the quantity of work required, the pacing of assignments, and the depth of analysis of the material in class discussions and written work.  Throughout the year we will examine a variety of texts from multiple literary genres.  In our studies we will use the texts/units below to concentrate on the concepts of responsibility, the development of a personal identity, and the irrationality of prejudice.

In addition, we will be studying both grammar (*Elements of Writing: Third* Course) and vocabulary (*Sadlier-Oxford Level D*).  Composition also comprises a large portion of the course; in composition the emphasis is on writing clear, unified, coherent, insightful essays.  There will be both expository and creative writing assignments.

**Texts/Units Include:** *The Chosen* by Chaim Potok; *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelsen; short stories; *Night* by Elie Wiesel; *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry; poetry; *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare; *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee; *Animal Farm* by George Orwell

**Literature Textbook:** *Prentice Hall Literature: Gold Level*

Textbooks must be covered.  You will be required to pay for any books not returned to the school.

**GRADING**

                       Participation/Citizenship            5%

                       Homework/Classwork:               10%

                       Vocab Quizzes:                          10%

                       Other Quizzes:                          15%

                       Papers/Tests/Projects:           60%

**A few notes about grading:**

1.  You should expect that there may be a quiz after any reading assignment.  Be prepared!!

2. The midterm and final exam are each worth 10% of your grade for the year.

3. Major assignments (i.e. certain projects) may count as more than one smaller paper.  I will let you know if this is the case.

4. Participation and citizenship include your preparedness for class, your attitude, and your willingness to participate in discussions and class activities.  Because this is an honors class, it is expected that you will be a contributor to class discussions and activities!

**MAKE-UPS/LATE WORK POLICIES**

It is ***your*** responsibility to notify me if you anticipate being absent or if you have been absent.  I will save your work for you, but it is not my responsibility to remind you of missed assignments.

*Homework –* Late homework may be accepted for half credit.  However, there are certain assignments that I do not give half credit for!  An example of this would be homework that will specifically be incorporated into the following day’s lesson, such as preparing discussion questions about a reading assignment.

*Essays -* 1 day late: paper loses five points

                       2 days late: paper loses ten points

                       3 days late:  paper loses 15 points

                       4 days late:  paper loses 20 points

                       If an essay is more than 4 days late, the highest grade it can receive is a 50.

**\*\*To be considered on time, essays must be handed in to turnitin.com by the due date and time!  More information about turnitin.com will follow.\*\***

*Quizzes and Tests-* Please be sure to see me if you are absent on the day of a test or quiz; these must be made up in a timely fashion.  Missed quizzes and tests cannot be made up during class time.

**EXPECTATIONS**

**1.**  Every person in our class deserves to be treated with respect.

**2.**  Every person should come to class on time and prepared.

**3.**  The classroom needs to be kept clean.

**4.**  Everyone will be polite: raise your hand to speak; do not interrupt or talk over others.

**5.**   Behavioral expectations and consequences detailed in the handbook will be enforced.

**6.**  Students may use mobile devices only when directed to do so.  Otherwise, devices should be stowed and silenced.  Students are not allowed to take photos of people in class

without their knowledge and consent.  If a student leaves the room during a quiz or test, he/she may be asked to leave mobile devices on the teacher’s desk.

**7.** You should have your school-issued computer (or your own if you are not using WA’s) with you on a daily basis.  *Computers should be fully charged every night, and it is expected that you will print your work at home.*

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Please don’t be late**; it is disrespectful.  Three tardies in one quarter = one 30 minute detention. After six, you start to lose credit for the course (see student handbook).

**Please don’t ask to go to the bathroom!**  Just take the pass and go.  Only one person can leave the room at a time.

**Vocabulary** quizzes will be on Fridays on a biweekly basis.  More information about vocabulary will follow!

**Essays** will need to be turned into turnitin.com.  More information to follow.

**MATERIALS**

Three ring binder with four sections (suggested): general information, literature, writing, vocabulary/grammar  **OR**  a notebook and folder to keep important handouts

Always come to class with your binder/notebook, the current text and something to write with!

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

The Westford Academy Student Handbook defines **plagiarism** as providing materials (tests, quizzes, projects or papers) to another student from a current or previously taken course; copying another student’s work or working with other students to complete an assignment when not instructed to do so by the teacher; purposeful communication of information or use of unauthorized resources during a testing environment; purposeful distribution of work/answers via printed, electronic, or verbal format to other students when such work will be considered for grading purposes; using the same work to fulfill two assignments; and/or fabricating, borrowing or “fudging” data, information, or sources.

First time violators will be subject to parent/guardian notification and a second offense will bring automatic suspension from school. **Furthermore, students found responsible for this action will** **NOT receive honor/high honor distinction for that specific marking period.**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

I will be available after school on Wednesday afternoons.  Please let me know if you are planning on staying for help!

Please feel free to contact me through email also.  My email address is: rdowd@westfordk12.us

I do have a website: <http://mrsdowdwestford.weebly.com>  Please keep in mind that this is a work-in-progress for me, though!

We will be using Google Classroom this year, too.  Passwords are as follows:

A Block:  9nx4gax                   D Block:  l43axk                            F Block:  uougou

========================================================================

Please sign below!  You should not rip this part of the page off; just show me the signatures on the appointed day (your first homework assignment!)

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand Mrs. Dowd's classroom policies and expectations.

Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Westford Academy, in collaboration with home and community, provides a safe environment where high expectations advance academic excellence.  We are committed to promoting integrity and critical thinking, while fostering tolerance and life-long learning in an ever-changing global society.  --*Westford Academy Mission Statement*