

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 Mikaelson; 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: essay loses five points
 2 days late: essay loses ten points
 3 days late: essay loses 15 points
 4 days late: essay 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](https://www.turnitin.com) by the due date and time! More information about [turnitin.com](https://www.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 with the exception of reading quizzes. I will expect you to make up reading quizzes upon your return unless there are extenuating circumstances.

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.

PHONES AND COMPUTERS

Students will be expected to leave their phones in the phone drop provided in the classroom on a daily basis.

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. Three tardies in one quarter = one 30 minute detention. After six, you start to lose credit for the course (see student handbook).

You don't need to ask to go to the bathroom! Just take the pass and go. Only one person can leave the room at a time. Please don't abuse this privilege.

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

All assignments turned in should have an MLA heading. (See <http://owl.english.purdue.edu>)

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, your chromebook (or personal device), the current text and something to write with!

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The Westford Academy Student Handbook defines **plagiarism** as turning in someone else's work as your own, copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit, failing to put a quotation in quotation marks, giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation, changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit, copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules).

1st Offense: Teacher notifies parent and Dean of Students; student receives a grade penalty = 0%

2nd Offense: In school suspension
3rd Offense: Out of school suspension

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> Many of the class handouts are available on my website. I also update long-term assignments there.

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

A Block: 9289foo

D Block: 628q626

F Block: tk3n5b

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*