

## CURRICULUM

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.

Composition also comprises a large portion of the course; in composition the emphasis is on writing clear, unified, coherent essays. There will be both expository and creative writing assignments. In addition, we will be studying vocabulary using the *Sadlier-Oxford Vocabulary Book Level D*.

**Texts/Units Include:** *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson; short stories; *Night* by Elie Wiesel; *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson; poetry; *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare; *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

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

Textbooks must be covered. You will be expected to pay for any textbooks not returned to the school.

## GRADING

Participation/Citizenship	5%
Homework/Classwork:	15%
Quizzes:	30%
Papers/Tests/Projects:	50%

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. If you are consistently prepared for class, on-task, respectful, and participating, the participation/citizenship portion of your grade will be good!

## 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*- Be sure to see me if you are absent on the day of the 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

My expectations are simple:

1. Every person in this room 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!** Hand signal, take pass, leave. No need to announce.

**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.

## SUGGESTED MATERIALS

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

Always come to class with your binder/notebook, your school-issued device (or your own, if applicable) 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](mailto:rdowd@westfordk12.us)

I do have a website: <http://mrsdowdwestford.weebly.com> Many of our class handouts are available on my website. Long-term assignments are available there as well.

We will be using Google Classroom this year as well.

Our class password: 6nq10h

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*