**Honors English 9 Course Syllabus  
2016/2017**

Teachers: Mrs. Lachance- Room 2226 (period 7)  
 Mrs. Robertson- Room 2144 (periods 5, 6, 7, and 8)  
 Mrs. Wagner- Room 5020 (periods 3 and 6)

Course Description  
Honors English 9 is a general survey of classical literature, poetry, and drama. We focus on close reading skills and using the text as a main source of evidence. Writing skills focus on learning how to write organized and effective pieces.

Class Texts

* Holt McDougal Literature- Students use classroom sets of the textbook, but the online version is accessible from home.
  + Online textbook site: my.hrw.com
  + Student username: student28957
  + Student password: d8p7r
* *No Fear Shakespeare Romeo and Juliet*- Classroom sets that remain in the classroom.
* *Night* by Elie Wiesel- Students will provide their own print copies during 2nd semester.
  + ISBN: 0374500010
  + An exact date for bringing the novel to class is TBA.

Grading Policies  
HCDE Scores: Grades are accessible at any time through the parent portal of PowerSchool. High school grades are finalized at the end of each semester (December and May). For high school courses, Semester 1 and Semester 2 grades DO NOT average together for a final year-long average**.** The finalized grades are used to calculate a high school Grade Point Average (GPA). The grading scale is as follows: A = 93-100, B = 85-92, C = 75-84, D = 70-74, F = 0-69. Daily work=37.5%, Tests/Major Assessments=37.5%, Exam=25%

IB Scores: Scores are earned by fulfilling specific criteria on each language and literature rubric: Analyzing, Organizing, Producing Text, and Using Language. Student scores for each rubric range from 1-7.

9th Grade Grading/Makeup Work Philosophy

All grading policies fall within HCDE and IB standards of assessment, but below is a breakdown of the expectations.

* Daily work is used for formative assessment purposes (determining student’s skills and understanding); therefore, not every daily assignment will be “graded.” If you assume that all work will be graded and perform at your very best, then you will be fine!
* Daily work is also used to prepare students for summative assessments (mastery of skills and understanding), so NO daily work can be made up after the final assessment/test for that unit of study. This usually gives students much more time than the minimum time allotted for makeup work per HCDE, but this is non-negotiable with us. Getting and completing makeup work is the responsibility of the student.
* We grade most assessments on an IB rubric, and we use the conversion scale shared by most MYP teachers to translate scores to HCDE scale. Students have access to this conversion chart on Managebac.
* Grading papers is a very time consuming process. Our rule of thumb is that we will always try to get papers graded and entered into PowerSchool by the next progress report date. This is basically a 3-week turnaround for major assignments. We will try to consistently use the “collected” feature in PowerSchool as well, especially for major assignments.

Teacher Expectations and Procedures  
Communication

* As students move from middle to high school, the expectations increase for student responsibility. We encourage students to communicate with teachers themselves, but teachers will seek support from home if necessary and are always willing to meet with parents if requested.
* We mainly use PowerSchool as a gradebook rather than a communication tool, so there won’t be lengthy descriptions there. We use Managebac as the primary means for communication. Students should check it and/or their email every day. If we post something important on Managebac, then we usually send an email alert along with it so students are notified if something has been updated. Every assignment on Managebac will include a thorough explanation, due date, and rubric.

Electronic Device Policy

* Phones: We will sometimes tell students to use their phones for classroom purposes, but they should not just leave them on their desks to check social media or text notifications they receive. This is a distraction they need to avoid during class time. Phones will be taken up if needed.
* Pads, tablets, and laptops: Some students prefer to take notes on devices, but we will ask students to put them away if we see games, social media, etc. on the screen. If it happens repeatedly, then the student will lose the privilege to use the device in English class. There are times when we will request students bring devices for writing and researching purposes, but they must be used responsibly.
* Reading literature: We request that students use hard copies of the works and pieces we read for class. Hard copies of the textbook pieces and in-class books will be provided to students, and any novels students are required to purchase for class should be print copies. High school literature studies require close reading annotation, and the act of doing so with a print text is a valuable skill to master.

Discipline

Be respectful, be kind, be forgiving, be humble, and be confident. Anyone who nurtures those traits will go great distances in life. The IB Learner Profile traits will come if you master those first!

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty simply means that you are ethical and principled in the completion and submission of all work.

* Please read the SMMHS Academic Honesty Policy.
* Students who fail to adhere to the honesty policy will be subject to the possible consequences listed below.
  + Student conference with teacher
  + Zero on assignment or assessment in which a violation occurred
  + Parent contact from teacher
  + Notification of administration and IB coordinator
  + Conference with parent, student, and teacher/administration
  + Disciplinary referral to administration who may then decide on additional consequences depending on the severity of the malpractice and whether it is a repeat offense.
* Additional consequences may include:
  + Removal from athletic teams, clubs, and/or honor societies
  + Removal from the diploma program or diploma certificate courses
  + In-school suspension
  + Suspension

Due Dates and Late Work

Due dates for assignments help us to meet the goals set for this school year. Formative assessments are in place so that we can have instruction and practice time leading up to the summative assessment for each unit, so it is important for students to complete work along the way in order to be fully prepared to master the summative assessment.

* Following the HCDE policy, students will have 5 days following an absence to complete missed work without penalty.
* Students who simply fail to turn in an assignment on the due date can expect a score reduction.

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Please sign below indicating that you understand the information provided on the syllabus. Tear off this bottom portion and return to Mrs. Lachance, Mrs. Robertson, or Mrs. Wagner.

I have read, received, and understand the policies and procedures outlined in the Ninth Grade 2016-2017 Honors English syllabus.

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

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