

**English I Course Syllabus  
Central High School – 2016-17  
Mr. Whitehead  
awhitehead@mcminnsschools.com  
School Phone: 423-263-5541**

Dear Student and Parents/Guardians,

I am excited to see what we will accomplish this school year! This year, our goal is to take what we discover and learn and apply it beyond our classroom setting.

Teaching, specifically English Language Arts, should always push further than just facts, knowledge, or a skill set. Added to those important facets of education, ELA teachers should strive to be a guide and mentor through an intellectual experience to open curiosity and broaden horizons to new and incredible ideas. This also allows students to examine their own values, goals, and ideas allowing students to becoming a success in anything they may pursue and enabling students to connect with humanity and attempt to share a bond across the spectrum of humanity. This creed of becoming self-relying, aware, and governing is a culminating force in my teaching.

Through teamwork, we can create the most stress-free, productive learning environment possible. Remember, we are all in this together! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. The best way to contact me is via email and I will try to respond to those as quickly as possible. Please sign and return the bottom of this page so that I know you have read all of the attached information. Let's have a good year!

Thank you,  
Mr. Whitehead

Student Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**English I Course Syllabus**  
**Central High School 2016-2017**  
**Mr. Whitehead**  
**awhitehead@mcminnschools.com**

**Course Description**

We will cover the Tennessee State Standards, which cover the following areas:  
Language, Communication, Writing, Research, Logic, Informational Text, Media, and Literature.

We will also implement the Common Core Standards, which cover the following areas:  
Reading Literature, Reading Informational Text, Writing, Speaking & Listening.

State Standards and Common Core Website:

<http://www.tn.gov/education/curriculum.shtml>

English I has a focus on World Literature and Informational Texts. We will be engaging in research, writing, analysis, and communication skills.

**Instructional Philosophy**

Instruction for this course will comply with the philosophy presented in the mission statement of Central High School of McMinn, which states that we are “to develop lifelong learners through challenging expectations and to address the needs of all students, while promoting civic and social responsibility.” In accordance with this view, instruction will emphasize personal learning in a challenging environment, while varying instructional methods will address the various modalities of learning. Class projects will provide opportunities for scholarship, creativity, family and community connections, a synthesis of learning, teamwork, and individual accountability.

**Materials**

Students will need:

- 1 inch binder (at least) to keep all notes, papers, projects, and assignments in
- 3 dividers
  - labeled as follows: Bell Ringers, Notes, Standards, Assignments, and Portfolio
  - ALL BELLRINGERS MUST BE KEPT TOGETHER FOR THEY WILL BE CHECKED FOR COMPLETION PERIODICALLY
- Pencils/Pens
- College-ruled Notebook Paper

## Grading Policy

### Nine Weeks Grades

- Bellringers (which will be kept together throughout the 9-Weeks)  
\*Your bellringer grade will consist completing and keeping up with the bellringer in the corresponding tab in your notebook.
- Daily Grades (in-class assignments, group work, homework)
- Test Grades and Papers (Count Twice)
- Quizzes
- Independent/Outside Reading
- Participation

### Semester Grades

- Semester Exam – 20%
- TN Ready Assessment will count a percentage

#### Grading Scale:

93-100 = A

85-92 = B

77-84 = C

70-76 = D

Below 70=F

### Text books:

- McDougal Littell's *The Language of Literature*
- McDougal Littell's *Language Network*
- Novels (dependent upon availability)

### Major Course Projects and Assignments (in alignment with state honors requirements)

- **Writing**
  - Students will write for a variety of purposes, modes, and styles (formal, informal, literary, analytical, and technical).
- **Research Paper/Project**
  - Students will select an author during a particular unit of study to further investigate his/her life and how it affects the way in which he/she writes.
- **Extended Reading**
  - Students will be assigned extended reading activities upon the current curriculum.
- **Technology Project/Presentation**
  - Students will present their research paper/project findings to the class in the form of a PowerPoint presentation.

## Classroom Procedures

- **Follow all guidelines outlined in class!**
- **Make-up work:** It is the STUDENT'S responsibility to collect all make-up work from the appropriate tab in the make-up work notebook. The student will have only as many days as he or she has missed to make up any work. For example: out on Monday, get assignment Tuesday, due on Wednesday. \*If you miss the day that an assignment is due, the assignment is expected to be turned in on the same day that you return!
- **Turning make-up work in:** There is a filing system by my desk (which will be explained in class).
- **Admits:** Admits should be given to me at the beginning of class.
- **Food and drinks:** Bottled water is allowed in the classroom. If a snack is brought into the classroom, clean up after yourself and make sure that ALL trash is thrown away! (If I have to pick up after food, this right will be revoked!)
- **Cell Phones:** Students may use their phones when directed, only for instructional purposes.
- **Seating:** Always stay where you are told unless instructed otherwise. When I am instructing, you should be at your seat and engaged. During other activities, you will be instructed where to go.
- **Turning in daily assignments:** Turning your assignment in late will result in a lunch detention. It is very important to bring your assignments on the day that they are due!
- **Not following the guidelines and procedures will result in:**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> offense: Warning and documentation
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Conference with the student
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: Action Plan, Parental Contact
  - 4<sup>th</sup> offense: Disciplinary Referral

\*Disclosure: The teacher reserves the right to make amendments and adjustments to this syllabus throughout the year as he sees fit.

## **Guidelines for OUR Stress-Free Learning Environment**

### **1. RESPECT**

- Being *respectful* means raising your hand when you want to speak or get help.
- Being *respectful* means using a person's name when you talk to him or her.

### **2. RESPONSIBILITY**

- Being *responsible* means knowing and following classroom and school rules on a daily basis.
- Being *responsible* means to be on time.

### **3. READY**

- Being *ready* means to be prepared with assignments and materials.
- Being *ready* means to follow and respond appropriately to direction.

*(All other guidelines and policies of our school will always be followed.)*

- **Not following the guidelines and procedures will result in:**

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2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Conference with the student

3<sup>rd</sup> offense: Action Plan, Parental Contact

4<sup>th</sup> offense: Disciplinary Referral

*By signing this contract, you are acknowledging that you understand these guidelines, their consequences, and are also agreeing to have to most stress-free, successful year possible!*

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_