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|  | **Class…Character...Leadership…Attitude…Scholarship...Service**  Vista Murrieta High School English I Mrs. Ojeda – Room EE 16 (951) 894-5750 ext. 6506  [sojeda@murrieta.k12.ca.us](mailto:sojeda@murrieta.k12.ca.us) |

**9th Grade Syllabus**

**Course Description:** English I is a course designed to not only meet, but to exceed, the state and district standards in English Language Arts. This course emphasizes development in the areas of reading, writing, language conventions, and listening and speaking within a curriculum that adheres to California Common Core Standards for English Language Arts. Students will be exposed to a variety of world literature and other genres, including poetry, drama, short stories, novels and non-fiction texts. They will also compose argumentative, narrative, and informational/explanatory pieces of writing.

**Core Texts:**

Students may be exposed to all or selections from the following:

* Pearson *MyPerspectives* Textbook *–* 2 Consumable Workbooks
* *To Kill a Mockingbird*
* *The Hunger Games*
* *Other novels to be determined later*

**Grading Scale:**

Reading Informational Texts & Literature – 30%

Writing – 30%

Listening and Speaking – 20%

Language – 20%

90-100% = A

80-89.9% = B

70-79.9% = C

60-69.9% = D

59.9% & below = F

(+/- used in scale)

**Class Materials:**

* Binder with an English Section
* Pens and Pencils (#2)
* Highlighters may be used
* Lined paper: Wide or College rule is fine
* Classroom Device

**Classroom Device:**

Teachers will be utilizing the **Canvas** platform to communicate daily/weekly agendas, directions and submission for assignments, and anything else class-related that students need. The goal is that each student will have a device on which to work, whether it is a personal device (not necessarily a phone), or a district device. The district is working tirelessly to get devices to students who need them. Devices will be necessary to work in and out of class.

**Attendance:**

Attendance is mandatory according to the state of California and to Murrieta Valley Unified School District. Students are required to meet deadlines set forth by the teacher.

In the event of an absence, a parent or guardian must call the VMHS attendance line to explain absence.

Students must be on time for class every day. Students who are late will be LOCKED OUT and not admitted without a tardy pass from Security and then marked tardy. Any student that accrues 3 period tardies in a 10-day window will be assigned a Lunch Lesson with Mr. Dunn, in Security. If a student is perpetually tardy it is possible that they will be deducted points for class participation within the Listening and Speaking category.

**Classroom Behavior Expectations**:

Be on Time

Treat others with kindness

Be attentive

Follow syllabus guidelines

**Missed Assignments due to Illness and Late Work Expectations:**

If a student is sick and is unable to attend class, he/she has 2 days to make up their missing assignment. Late work **may** be accepted for **half credit** within the six-week grading period in which it was assigned and **based on teacher discretion**. Any point deduction is at teacher discretion and will be based on completeness and quality of work. **All assignments are due on the Friday at the end of the marking period and the Friday before finals week. Missed tests and quizzes need to be made up within one week of the test/quiz being administered originally.**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Students need to take personal responsibility for their academic performance and demonstrate academic integrity. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating or the attempt to copy assignments from other sources (another person or online), using notes without permission, turning in work that’s done by someone else, **or by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool when prohibited—either in part or in whole,** forging, altering and/or duplicating school documents or signatures, plagiarism, sending text messages of answers, and using photography to capture/reference assessment data, assignment answers, or other information. Consequences for academic dishonesty may be implemented at the discretion of the teacher and/or by administration. This may result in zero credit for the assignment as well as progressive discipline. Consequence severity will increase if the offense repeats.

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT CELL PHONE/ELECTRONICS POLICY**

Student use of cell phones, ear buds/headphones, and other electronics has become an increasingly negative distraction and/or disruption during classroom instruction, interfering with student learning and engagement.

In order to support and maintain an environment conducive to learning and engagement, cell phones, ear buds/headphones, and other electronics **must be turned off and put away while class is in session** (unless otherwise directed by the teacher for academic purposes).

**Failure to comply with the cell phone/electronics directive may be considered “defiance” and result in behavioral consequences. Additionally, cell phones, ear buds/headphones, and other electronics may be confiscated by faculty and/or an administrator, and parental pickup may be required.**

If you need to contact your child in case of an emergency, call the front office at (951) 894-5750.