

# 9<sup>th</sup> Grade English 2020-2021 Syllabus (LaunchED@home Edition)

## Welcome Video

Mrs. Lund- Room 413

Email: [Jahzeel.Lund@ocps.net](mailto:Jahzeel.Lund@ocps.net) (preferred method of contact)

students may only email from their OCPS accounts or via Canvas

## **Course Description**

The high school English classroom is an environment for students to explore and understand the past, present, and future through literature and writing. Emphasis is placed on communication in the areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking, in alignment with the Florida Standards. The literature component offers students the opportunity to sharpen their skills of comprehension, inference, and creative problem solving. Making real-world connections will allow for students to activate prior knowledge and build upon it throughout the school year.

## **Primary Sources**

- Selected stories, poems, and plays from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Collections textbook and associated resources (the textbook is fully online and available via Launch.ocps.net)
- Selected current event articles through <https://newsela.com/> & <https://www.commonlit.org/en>
- The vast majority of assignments will be completed via Google Drive and submitted through Canvas (all work will also be submitted via Canvas with a few being through Google Forms)
- NoRedInk.com is also used for grammar and writing assignments on a weekly basis and is also a major part of your class grade
- Microsoft Teams and BBB (Big Blue Button in Canvas) will be used with Teams being used to broadcast live lessons

## **Classroom Procedures**

All students will log into Microsoft Teams at the beginning of the period in order to receive directions and instructions for the day. Students will also log into Canvas as all work will be posted there. I use a daily/weekly doc that can be found under the weekly module that allows students to know what is expected, what is assigned and when it is due. Due dates will also be found on the weekly document as some external sites are used and therefore not automatically added to the Canvas course calendar however students are free to add it if it helps with keeping track.

## **Reading**

Students are expected to read at least thirty minutes each night (whether by completing school work, or reading on their own). Additionally, articles from Newsela/Common Lit used for annotation and reader responses will be assigned periodically for practice/graded FSA Writing opportunities.

## **Canvas/Google Drive**

All students will use Canvas & Google Drive on a daily basis. Links to assignments, Google folders, and other materials will be available through Canvas.

## **Materials Used/Required**

- School issued laptop, Canvas, Google Drive, Microsoft Office (all included software/programs)
- Headphones/earbuds (MUST BE WIRED) (part of the FSA has a listening portion, students are assigned various audio components throughout the year) because we are fully digital and at home you may want to use a headset with a microphone so you do not get feedback
- Wireless mouse (optional); makes it easier to copy/paste screenshots when sharing/completing assignments as well as during FSA there is a click and drag section

## **Grading Policy/Skyward**

Skyward is to be checked on a weekly, if not daily basis. At least one graded assignment will be posted every week, most assignments usually take 2-3 days to grade (Bellwork and NoRedInk is graded on a weekly basis); if it will take longer to post an assignment grade, students are usually told ahead of time, (projects and bigger assignments usually take up to 5 days, I will keep you updated). Due dates will be posted via Canvas/Daily Google Doc/students should input them into their Calendar. If a student sees a wrong grade posted for an assignment it is their responsibility to tell Mrs. Lund ASAP (via e-mail or Canvas messaging only). Please do not wait until Progress Reports or after Report Cards have been issued to bring up a grade/missing assignment issue. If a student did not turn in an assignment it will show as missing in Skyward until it is turned in with the exception of bellwork, if it is not completed in class and you are present you will receive a zero. Sometimes an assignment may show up with no grade, it means grades are currently being input and I have not made it to your period yet. More details on grades can be found below:

**Assignments are graded via a point system.**

**1-19 points BW/Exit Tickets, Website Assignments**

**20-49 Bigger Classwork, small projects, longer writing assignments**

**50+ (quarterly projects when assigned)**

**Bellwork/Exit Tickets (smaller):**

Usually worth 5-10 points for the week, at the beginning (1st quarter) bellwork is worth 2 points each day, starting the second quarter it drops to 1 point a day. This is a weekly grade, Monday-Friday, usually not graded/input until Monday/Tuesday the following week. Bellwork must be completed the first five minutes of class or it is considered late, students may complete bellwork before arriving to class unless otherwise explicitly told not to. If you are absent you are responsible for completing bellwork as well.

**Classwork (smaller/medium):**

Usually dependent on the length of the assignment in the 5-40 point range. Most classwork is graded on a two point policy per question, full credit is two points if everything required is submitted, you will receive one point for partial/incomplete answers and zero points for blank answers. Newsela/CommonLit and NoRedInk fall under this category.

**Essays (middle level):**

All essays are FSA argumentative/informative types and usually get a grade on what you would score on the FSA based rubric. For example the highest you can score on the FSA is a 10 this equals an A, 8 points is a B, 7 points is a C grade, etc. Essay scores are usually weighted higher since they have a lower numerical value.

### **Quizzes/Tests/Projects (middle and higher level):**

Most quizzes/tests are graded one point per question so points are dependent on the length. If a student scores low on a test they may retake it to raise their grade (with the exception of PMA exams which are given quarterly and can not be retaken). Please note tests are actually very rare in my classroom, you are mostly quizzed and given appropriate level classwork to better understand the lessons, in fact most quizzes are self-assessments so you don't get a grade but you can see your scores right away!

**Late work:** All late work is automatically worth 50% (with the exception of NoRedInk, it closes on Friday at 2:20pm since you have all week to work on it). Late work is considered late when it is not turned in during class period the day it is due. Most classwork when lengthy is due the following day at the beginning of the period, however work due the day of is labeled as such and must be completed and submitted before the end of the period in order to get credit. If a student is on an IEP/504 plan then the necessary steps will be taken to accommodate their extra time with no late penalty, a student can not wait until after an assignment is due to ask for extended time. Again, classwork is due DURING the class period not at the end of the day unless you are in 7th period. See Absences section below for lateness due to absences. If you are submitting an assignment late, usually it will be locked in Canvas and you must complete the Late Work Assignment Google Form found on the front main page of my class in Canvas.

**Homework:** I do not give any extra assignments as homework however classwork that is not finished in class may be completed at home and submitted the next day if it is not an in-class only assignment. NoRedInk and Newsela/Common Lit can also be completed at any time Monday-Thursday as these are usually due on Friday. I prefer you to join a club or a sport or go volunteer somewhere instead of doing extra work if it can be completed in class.

### **Cheating/Plagiarism/Copying: Zero Tolerance Policy.**

If you copy/plagiarize/cheat you will be given a zero, you may redo the assignment for half credit, but feedback will not be given. If you decide to give your assignment to a friend to copy you too will receive a zero, no exceptions!

**Absences:** If students are absent they must make sure they get any missing assignments from the daily Google Doc available via Canvas, a classmate or Mrs. Lund, please check Canvas and the daily doc first as everything is explicitly written out there before you send an email as I will always refer you to that document before answering questions.

**As a general rule, students have the same number of days plus one for make-up work as the number of days absent plus one (if you are absent on Tuesday, you come back to school Wednesday you have until Friday to turn in your missing work with no penalty).**

Work is considered late if it is not turned in when it is due (or upon passing your allotted time from being absent) with an automatic penalty of 50% (the lowest grade you can earn for a fully complete assignment is 50% unless an assignment is not turned in then it goes in as missing which is 0%, unless you turn in a half completed assignment late then you will receive a 25% for example). Any work can be turned in up to 5 days before Progress Report time, any work given after Progress Reports can be turned in up to 5 days before Report Card time in order to allow sufficient time for missing assignments to be graded and uploaded to Skyward. The cutoff date for Progress Reports and Cards is usually the Friday before they are due for teachers, I will set up dates for you as they become available.

I hope that we will all have a successful year. If you are ever in need of tutoring or extra help with assignments in class please let me know and we can make arrangements (usually before school).

Keep in mind due to activities/assemblies/state tests our schedule may change.