

ENGLISH 9

Mrs. Casile

WELCOME!

Welcome to 9th Grade English. I am looking forward to the start of the 2019-2020 school year at Neshaminy High School. I am excited about the opportunity to get to know you, and I am looking forward to a happy and productive school year.

COURSE OVERVIEW

2019 2020

Ninth grade English class is a wonderful opportunity for students to grow as responsible and knowledgeable individuals. It is imperative that students remain focused, motivated and determined throughout the course of the year in order to experience success. We will be studying many types of literature this year, including short-stories, novels, and poetry. This year, we are incorporating a Genre Study in Realistic Contemporary Fiction; as students learn the tricks to reading this genre, it will increase their abilities as readers in general. Some titles that we will be reading include, but are not limited to, *Komikette and Julia*, by Sharon Draper, "Philomel Cottage" by Agatha Christie, *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare and *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. We will also be working extensively on developing fundamental writing and vocabulary skills.

Paperless Classroom: The majority of the coursework for English 9 will be available on-line. Students will need to have a small binder or a section of a binder for the handouts given in class. Students will be responsible for keeping notes organized based on the table of contents on Canvas.

SUPPLIES

- Three Ring English binder (1") with three dividers: PDN, handouts, vocabulary
- Loose-leaf paper (in binder) - Writing utensils (pens, pencils, highlighters)
- Post-it Notes (for active reading!)
- Charged Chromebook: If a student shows up without a chromebook or without a CHARGED chromebook, the student is unprepared for class. This will result in a point deduction in the final assignment grade.

It is suggested to have a flash drive for transporting work to and from school. You will also have access to a Google Drive provided through the district. In lieu of a physical writing folder, students will be required to use turnitin.com through Canvas. We will be referencing and working from the McDougal Littell textbook, *The Language of Literature*, as well as a variety of novels. *Students will be responsible for the proper care of novels.

Homework Policy

- It is essential that students complete all assigned homework in order to reinforce what we learn in class. Completing at home assignments is vital for students to stay on task during classroom activities. Studies show that family involvement in a child's education is one of the strongest indicators of student achievement.

- We ask that families work together to complete homework assignments so that students develop a strong sense of responsibility and preparedness. Homework assignments will include reading (especially of independent reading books -- students will be responsible for at LEAST 15 minutes of reading per night during these units for a total of at LEAST 4-5 independent books throughout the year), short writing assignments, discussion preparation, and major writing assignments, such as essays, research papers, and literary analysis writings. Completing these assignments will allow students to gain a higher level of thinking, as well as meet Pennsylvania standards for reading and writing.

- Most assignments will be due at the beginning of class on the due date. You will be able to reference Canvas for specific due dates. We will use homework assignments for classroom activities and discussions. Therefore, smaller assignments will not be accepted after the due date, with few exceptions. Major assignments must also be handed in when class begins on the due date, unless it is a writing assignment through turnitin.com that is due at midnight.

Major assignments that are late must be turned in within one week of the due date and will lose ten percent for each day the assignment is late.

ABSENCES

A student who is absent for an excused reason will be given one day to make up work for each day he or she was absent. It is the responsibility of the student who was absent to obtain materials and information that were missed (all information will be posted on Canvas and/or find a friend to check in with about missing assignments).

A+

Evaluations

Each assignment will be worth a specific amount of points. Students may divide the total number of points earned by the total number of possible points in order to gain a better understanding of his or her grade throughout a marking period (some assignments, such as Common Assessments for English 9 will be worth a percentage of a student's grade for the marking period. We will make parents aware of these as the school year progresses). Students and parents/guardians may also gain accessibility to grades and completion of assignments through E-School's Home Access Center. Students will be evaluated on the following: Homework, Classwork, Writing, Tests/Quizzes, Projects, and Please Do Nows.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- Be Responsible --come to class on time, complete assignments on time. You are responsible for the atmosphere of the classroom!
- Be Appropriate --by now you know the rules --be appropriate at all times to ensure a successful school year!
- Show Respect - to your teachers and your peers -- THIS INCLUDES BELONGINGS!
- Show Appreciation -- we want to ensure that this classroom is a comfortable learning environment for all students!

Please be prepared and in your seat when the bell rings. There will be a daily warm up (Please Do Now) on Canvas (and the board) to get your started for the day. We have 45 minutes each day to accomplish many tasks.

CELL PHONE POLICY

From Neshaminy Student Handbook: Cell phones may be used in the Cafeteria during lunch periods and in the hallways during the change of classes. Cell phones must always be in the silent mode.

Consequences for Inappropriate Possession of Electronic Devices:

- 1st Offense -- Item confiscated, retained and after-school detention assigned.
- 2nd Offense -- Item confiscated, retained, five (5) demerits and Detention assigned.
- 3rd Offense -- Item retained until further disciplinary action, which will include ISS or OSS and parent conference.

*The Neshaminy School District is not responsible for the reimbursement/replacement of lost/stolen articles of students.

CONTACT INFO

Need Help? JUSTASK! Mrs. Casile is available during after-school help in the library on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:30-4:00 p.m.. There is also before school help M-F from 6:45- 7:10 am and after school help Mondays- Thursdays 2:30-4:00 pm in the library with 9th grade English teachers!

Find my Canvas page on the Neshaminy High School page by searching for Casile

OR you can use the direct link to Canvas: www.neshaminy.instructure.com to find daily homework updates, extra handouts, online texts, etc.

kcasile@neshaminy.org

(215) 809-6100

If any family member would like to reach me in order to discuss a student's progress, please do not hesitate to do so. I believe that parents and teachers should work as a team to ensure students are receiving the best education possible. I am asking that both students and parents sign this letter (as well as the plagiarism contract) and return the bottom portion to me as an agreement in order to make the 2019-2020 school year the best it can be. Once again, welcome to 9th Grade English & Neshaminy High School! Let's work together to make this a great year!

I/we have read and understood the above letter regarding the course goals, expectations, and class policies for 9th Grade English.

(Student's Name --Please Print)

(Period)

(Student's Signature)

(Date)

(Parent's Signature)

(Date)

(Parent's Phone Number)

(Parent's Email)

*Please be sure your contact information is up to date on Home Access to ensure clear communication throughout the year.