

# English 1 Syllabus

Ms Loar  
Room G106

Welcome to your 9th grade English class! I'm excited to get to know you and be your teacher.

## **CLASS PURPOSE AND VISION**

1. **Read** to discover and understand both the universality and individuality of being human.
2. **Listen** to each other and other viewpoints to further our understanding and empathy of other people and situations.
3. **Write** to express our unique thoughts clearly so others can understand even when we aren't there to explain.
4. **Speak** to share thoughts and opinions, to use an honest and constructive voice, and to express kindness and respect to one another, even when we disagree.

We will work on these skills to become better communicators. There is no time to waste - we have an amazing capacity in our brains to learn and adapt to the world.



## **PRACTICALITIES**

Contact Ms Loar by email at [cloar@pittsburgusd.net](mailto:cloar@pittsburgusd.net) or by text or voice message at **775-298-5386**. The main number of PHS is 925-473-2390. After 5:00pm, I'm not likely to answer an email or text.

- Grading - I use weighted categories, as follows:  
40% - assessments  
15% - independent reading  
25% - writing practice  
20% - class reading
- Late Work - Work that is turned in past the due date may not earn higher than a Satisfactory grade (or a C). Please contact Ms Loar for extreme circumstances or with any questions. Good time management and planning will be rewarded.
- Supplies - Students need a place to keep physical handouts. All assignments and materials will also be posted in Google Classroom. At a minimum, please have a **2-pocket folder** and **lined paper** in class each day.
- Technology - Cell phones are not permitted in class unless Ms Loar clearly states otherwise. Please bring your Chromebook to class each day. We will also use Remind for communication.

## **PLAGIARISM**

Doing your own work is key to learning. Copying another student's work or copying and pasting from the internet are both serious crimes, because the entire purpose of school has been stolen in those cases. Therefore, any case of plagiarism or cheating is given an automatic zero. PHS administration and the student's family will be contacted.

### **HYGIENE**

We are still in the midst of a very uncertain pandemic. New variants of COVID-19 will likely continue to circulate, and people's vaccination status is mostly unknown. Students may bring their own hand sanitizer to use during class at any time. Masks are required inside the school building at all times. Please wash your hands often and give others their space.



### **READING**

Students are expected to read books of their own choosing and as homework, as is reflected in the grading. There will also be time in class for silent reading. We will read the following books together as a class:

- *The Part-time Diary of an Indian* by Sherman Alexie

*(Reading, cont'd)*

- *All-American Boys* by Brendan Kiely and Jason Reynolds
- *Once Upon a Quincenera* by Julia Alvarez
- Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*
- Many other articles, short stories, and poems

### **CLASS EXPECTATIONS**

At all times, students are expected to be responsible for themselves (their own work and their own behavior), ready to learn every day at school, and respectful toward all others.

- **Responsible:** choose your words carefully and think before you speak or act. Be aware of due dates and consistently communicate with Ms Loar. Ask questions.
- **Ready to Learn:** Show up to class on time and prepared. Do all your coursework. Persevere through hardships and believe in your intelligence and abilities.
- **Respectful:** Use appropriate language for a classroom. Be positive toward others and choose your words carefully - honesty, not cruelty.

