

ELEMENTS OF LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION HONORS
STUDENT PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

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I. Goals

At the conclusion of the school year, you will be expected to have:

1. Improved your listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking skills.
2. Studied different forms of literature - short stories, poetry, drama and novels from different time periods.
3. Communicated and expressed yourself effectively as well as respected the ideas of others.
4. Improved your study, literary analysis and critical reading skills.
5. Increased your vocabulary.
6. Gained proficiency in editing skills
7. Become more accomplished in the writing of expository and analytical essays.
8. Prepared for the HSPA, the PSAT and the SAT
9. Demonstrated the ability to use critical thinking, decision making and problem solving skills.
10. Appreciated and found enjoyment and satisfaction in developing your own communication skills and appreciation of literature.
11. Demonstrated your knowledge of literary and poetic terms and devices.

II. EVALUATION

Your grade for each marking period will be based on:

1. Tests and projects
2. Writing assignments and essays
3. Quizzes
4. Homework

Each of these assignments will be given a point value. Your marking period grade will be determined by the total number of points you earn.

TENTATIVE SYLLABUS
TEXT - LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE

Marking Period 1

1. Short stories, fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and literary terminology and format applied to these genres
2. *Joy Luck Club*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and poetry of Langston Hughes; (Optional texts for Lit Circles)
3. Review of study skills
4. Grammar, sentence structure, sentence and paragraph editing and punctuation
5. Vocabulary
6. Essays - Narrative, Descriptive, Persuasive, Expository, Analytical
7. HSPA, PSAT, and SAT practice and preparation

MARKING PERIOD 2

1. Short stories, fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and literary terminology and format applied to these genres
2. *The Catcher in the Rye*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Fahrenheit 451* (Optional texts for Lit Circles)
3. Grammar, sentence structure, sentence and paragraph editing and punctuation
4. Vocabulary
5. Essays - Narrative, Descriptive, Persuasive, Expository, Analytical
6. Research Paper
7. HSPA, PSAT, and SAT practice and preparation

Midterm Assessment

Marking Period 3

1. *Othello*, *Julius Caesar* (Optional texts for Lit Circles)
2. Short stories, fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and literary terminology and format applied to these genres
3. Grammar, sentence structure, sentence and paragraph editing and punctuation
4. Vocabulary
5. Expository/analytical essays
6. Oral Recitation and Persuasive Speech
7. HSPA, PSAT, and SAT practice and preparation

Marking Period 4

1. *The Bluest Eye*, *A Separate Peace*, Poetry and Poetry Project. (Optional texts for Lit Circles)
2. Short stories, fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and literary terminology and format applied to these genres
3. Grammar, sentence structure, sentence and paragraph editing and punctuation
4. Vocabulary
5. Expository/analytical essays
6. Research Paper
7. HSPA, PSAT, and SAT practice and preparation

Final Exam

III. COURSE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Arrive at class with a positive and responsible attitude.
2. Be in your assigned seat when the bell rings. Please see your student handbook for information on tardiness.
3. Please report to class before going to the nurse, attending a student council meeting or leaving on a field trip in order to obtain class assignments. Guidance appointments should not be scheduled during English class.
4. Be prepared to work and to actively participate. Have the following materials EVERY DAY: your student planner/handbook, a three-ring notebook SPECIFICALLY FOR ENGLISH divided into sections for handouts, class notes, vocabulary, homework, quizzes, and journal entries; pens (all class work and homework should be done in ink), pencils, highlighters, notebook paper, and essential texts.
5. Writing assignments and projects will be collected at the BEGINNING of class on their assigned due date. All work should have the correct heading as per MLA format. Essays should follow MLA format; any stapling of assignments or essays is to be done BEFORE entering class. If you miss the class period when an assignment or test is due But you come to school late, if you have early dismissal before the class meets, or if you know you will be absent from school on a due date, your assignment or test is still due ON THAT DAY. Please see me to arrange a time to take the test beforehand or submit your assignment before you leave. Major writing assignments and projects will lose TEN (10) percent for each day they are late. When absent YOU are responsible for making up all missed homework, quizzes and tests within the time period as stated in the student handbook. When you return after an absence, check the "Class Secretary" for missed assignments, quizzes, and tests. Late homework due to illness that is not completed within the Allotted time will receive a zero. Late homework that is not due to illness will not be accepted. See me about extenuating circumstances. In English Honors there is no extra credit. All assignments for the week will be posted on the board in the classroom and on my webpage. Check the board daily for updates.
6. Going to your locker at the beginning of class to get a forgotten book or assignment will be counted as a "late" to class.
7. Extra help day: Wednesday, Room B1113. See me for additional times.
8. You are EXPECTED to be honest in all of your academic work. All written work (i.e. homework, essays, projects, etc.) MUST BE YOUR OWN. Any work suspected of being plagiarized will receive a zero. Please refer to the student handbook for definitions of and information concerning cheating and plagiarism.

9. As a student in an honors course, it is expected that assignments will be completed by due dates and in the correct format. If you need to print any work using the school computers, PLAN AHEAD. Please do not wait until you come to class on the due date to print out your work. In an emergency, you can email me your assignment. If there is a computer problem at home, I will accept a handwritten assignment accompanied by a note from a parent advising me of the difficulty.

IV. CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

1. Be prepared to constructively contribute to and participate in class assignments and discussions. Be cooperative when working with your peers in groups or in pairs. Make sure that you do YOUR share of the work.
2. Respect your classmates' opinions and possessions; be tolerant of differences and considerate of others' feelings.
3. Use only APPROPRIATE AND ACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE in the classroom and in your writing.
4. Behave responsibly so that your behavior at no time disrupts the class.
5. Pack your materials for dismissal only after you have been given instructions to do so.
6. Refrain from chewing gum, eating, or drinking in class.
7. Give your full cooperation to substitute teachers. Any name submitted by the substitute for disciplinary reasons will receive, at the very least, a detention.
8. Should you choose not to follow the expected behaviors, the following consequences may occur: detention or detentions, parent phone contact or conference, and/or a referral to the vice-principal.

In the English Department we strive to have mutual respect in the classroom. For this reason please adhere to the following:

Greetings

When a student is greeted with a statement of “Good Morning,” it is considered polite to return the reply or acknowledge the statement.

Student’s Responsibilities

Check grades on a regular basis on the grading program in Genesis. Allow teachers ample time to grade assignments and post grades.

It is the student’s responsibility to address the teacher with all concerns. It is imperative that a student communicate with his or her teacher first about all student concerns. Please make an appointment with the teacher in person.

Appropriate methods to speak with a teacher

There is a right time and place to speak with a teacher with regards to specific grading and/or assignment concerns. Please follow the methods below:

First, approach the teacher before or after class asking when would be a good time to meet. The best times to meet with a teacher are during his or her scheduled after school hours and/or before or after school based on the teacher’s schedule.

Appropriate way to write an e-mail

- 1. Make sure that the e-mail address from which you are sending your e-mail is appropriate for school.**
- 2. In the subject of your e-mail state all of the following: Your FULL name, class period, name of class, and the reason for the e-mail**
- 3. In the text of your e-mail include the following: a greeting (example: Dear Mr., Ms. _____), in complete sentences the reason why you are e-mailing, a courtesy “Thank you” for future assistance and a closing (example- Sincerely, your FULL name).**
- 4. All attachments to an e-mail should also be copied and pasted into the text of the e-mail at the end of your message. By putting the text of an attachment into the e-mail it ensures that the instructor will still be able to view your work even if the attachment will not open.**

Remember: The more you participate, the more enjoyable the class will be for everyone.

