



Maria Montessori Academy Junior High

English 9 Syllabus

Mrs. Lisa

Email: lholliday@mariamontessoriacademy.org

Course Description: English 9 is the required English/Language Arts class for all 9th Grade students. This is a literature-rich course. Students will study many literary and informational texts, both in reading as well as writing. English 9 is a course designed to further develop your analytical comprehension of reading texts, develop your skills in spoken English, and to develop your written English technique. This course is very motivated by individual interest and ability. In this course, we will engage in an on-going collaboration with the Early Childhood classes. You will also complete an extensive Capstone project during this course.

Course Expectations: Students are expected to come to class on-time with a positive attitude and a willingness to explore new ideas. Much of the work in this class is self-guided and self-directed; students are expected to manage their time wisely and ask for assistance in a timely manner. Students will keep a journal in this class as part of their Capstone project. It is expected that students will keep their journals with them at all times and make at least 3 entries in their journal every week. Our collaboration with the Early Childhood classes is a large part of this class, and, as service learning, helps those we serve while developing our own skills at the same time. Therefore, attendance of and participation in these activities with the Early Childhood classes is MANDATORY. Respect and a positive attitude are key to your success in this class!

Textbooks and Materials:

- 5-subject notebook (with folders as dividers), to be kept in the classroom
- Composition book to be used as your journal, travels with you at all times
- Zipper pouch containing: 1 glue stick, 1 set of colored pencils, pencils, pens (in any color), scissors, and 1 whiteboard marker (in any color)
- Flash drive, to be kept with you but only used for English
- Your choice of personal reading book (1 per cycle), to be used for your book project

Literature Read in Class: The 9th Grade students will read a wide variety of both narrative and informational texts throughout the year. All texts will be provided by the teacher. Some of the texts read this year will be: *To Kill a Mockingbird*; *I am Nujood, Aged 10 and Divorced*; *Fahrenheit 451*; *Names/Nombres*; *Two Names, Two Worlds*; *The Declaration of Independence*; *I Have a Dream*; *The Emancipation Proclamation*; and other short narrative and informational texts

Grading Plan:

- MMA uses a Standards Based Grading System. Course standards can be found online at www.uen.org and the course blog.



Maria Montessori Academy Junior High

What the Student Knows	Score	Traditional Letter Grade
Exceeds Proficiency: In addition to Score 85, the student <u>uses inferences and applications that go beyond</u> what was explicitly taught in class.	95	A+
In addition to Score 85 performance, <u>partial success</u> at inferences and applications that go beyond what was directly explicitly in class.	90	A
Meets Proficiency: No major errors or omissions regarding any of the information and/or processes (simple or complex) that were explicitly taught.	85	B+
No major errors or omissions regarding the simpler details and process and partial knowledge of the more complex ideas and processes.	80	B
Approaching Proficiency: No major errors or omissions regarding the simpler details and processes but major errors or omissions regarding the more complex ideas and processes.	75	C+
Partial knowledge of the simpler details and processes but major errors or omissions regarding the more complex ideas and procedures.	70	C
Developing Proficiency: With help, a partial understanding of some of the simpler details and processes and some of the more complex ideas and processes.	65	D+
With help, a partial understanding of some of the simpler details and processes but not the more complex ideas and processes.	60	D
Even with help, no understanding or skill demonstrated.	59	F

Course Policies:

Student Work: Students must actively and positively participate in and contribute to all class activities. Students will do the bulk of their work in their Interactive Student Notebooks (ISNs). All major writing assignments (1 per cycle) will be written and submitted via Google Classroom. Students are expected to come to class prepared to participate fully. Students will complete a Book Project once per cycle about a book that is read independently or as a small reading group (no more than 4 people). All work must be the original work of the student; plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students are encouraged to revise work until they have demonstrated mastery of the standard being assessed. Submission of work by the due date is an important part of this class.



Maria Montessori Academy Junior High

Portfolio: Students will choose 1 piece of work each cycle to reflect upon and include in their portfolio.

Group Activities: Much work in this class will require collaboration and participation in group activities. Your full participation is expected. As you choose your groups, please be sure that you choose partners who will enable you to be your best work-self. You are encouraged to work with a variety of classmates. Find peaceful resolutions to any conflicts.

Homework Expectations: Students will need to read 1 novel per cycle individually or with a small reading group (no more than 4 people), and complete a Book Project for that book. You will complete 1 major writing assignment per cycle, and much/most of this writing will occur outside of class time. The Capstone Project will be an on-going, year-long project that will require much work outside of class.

Absences: This class will function as a workshop on most days. As such, your attendance is VITAL! When you miss a class, you are missing most of your time in which to demonstrate mastery of the learning standards. When possible, please notify the teacher in advance of absences so that preparations can be made to help you stay current with your work. If you unexpectedly miss class, it is your responsibility to meet with the teacher IMMEDIATELY upon your return to class to make a plan to become current with your work.

Citizenship Grade: The grace and courtesy you use toward your environment, classmates, and teachers will be factored into your citizenship grade.

Class Rules: Respect the environment and allow others to work. If the right to learn is being intruded upon, a verbal warning will be given so that the student is made aware of the behavior. If the behavior continues, the student will be asked to stay after class or after school in order to review the expectation. If more support is needed a letter will be sent home identifying the behavior in question, which will need to be signed by a parent and returned the next day. Unreturned letters will warrant a phone call home.

Class Materials:

Donations of the following items are much appreciated: page protectors, loose-leaf paper, colored paper (multiple colors), whiteboard markers, whiteboard erasers, box of tissues

I have read and understand the rules for _____ class.

Parent/Guardian Signature:_____ Date:_____

Parent/Guardian's Email Address:_____ and/or _____

Student Signature:_____ Date:_____