**Bullitt Central High School**

**Department:** English

**Course Title**: English I

**Term**: 2016-2017

**Teacher**: Coach Kuehn

**Credit**: 1 credit

**Course Overview:** Welcome to English 9! I feel privileged to journey with you as you enter your first year of high school and venture into a more sophisticated study of literature and writing. I am also looking forward to participating in rich discussions and engaging learning activities with you. In this class, you will be held to high standards of behavior and academic performance, and if you put forth your best effort in these areas, you will be successful.

The curriculum in this course is designed to broaden your literary knowledge, deepen your thinking about important topics, develop your communication skills, connect your learning to other classes, and give you multiple opportunities to work with a variety of people on different tasks. I hope that you will approach this class with the same enthusiasm with which it was designed.

**Course Content:**

1. **Reading**

* Reading Across the Curriculum
* Reading Strategies
* Knowledge of Literary and Nonliterary Forms
* Influences of Texts
* Author’s Voice and Method
* Persuasive Language and Logic
* Literary Criticism
* Words and Their History

1. **Writing**

* Writing Process
* Modes of Writing for Different Purposes and Audiences
* Organization, Unity, and Coherence
* Sentence-Level Constructions
* Conventions of Usage
* Conventions of Punctuation

1. **Research**
2. **Listening, Viewing, and Speaking**

* Comprehension and Analysis
* Application

1. **Study Skills and Test Taking**

**Criteria Included for Evaluation and Determination of Grade:**

1. Grading Scale: 100-90 = A 89-80 = B 79-70 = C 69-60 = D 59 and below = F
2. Each assignment is given a point value. The total number of points earned will be divided by the total number of points available. Keeping a folder of all work will ensure that each student knows where he/she stands at any given time in the course.

**Performance Objectives:**

1. Daily & weekly assignments
2. Weekly grammar exercises
3. Weekly vocabulary units
4. Various quizzes and tests
5. Daily journal entries
6. Presentations
7. Writing folder entries
8. Reciprocal reading skills
9. Semester writing folder
10. Final Exam

**Rules of Class:**

1. Work every day, from the minute the start bell rings until I dismiss you at the end of the period. Leave the drama, cell phones and distractions at the door.
2. Students will show respect to all people, including their peers and teachers.
3. Students will arrive to class prepared and on time every day.
4. Students will wait to be dismissed.
5. Students will speak using **positive** comments only!!!

**Procedures for Discipline:**

**1st offense** Verbal warning

**2nd offense** Detention 30 minutes, parent notification

**3rd offense** Detention 60 minutes, parent notification

**4th offense** Behavior contract, detention 60 minutes, parent notification

**5th offense** Discipline Referral

***Please be aware there will be cases when an immediate referral is necessary if a student’s behavior takes away from the other students, challenges the teacher, or threatens the learning environment. At which point, the administrator will determine the punishment and decide if parents need to be contacted.***

**Course Materials:**

* Pen or pencil
* Loose leaf paper and binder, notebook or composite book (student’s choice)
* Folder
* ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** by Harper Lee
* Highlighter, post-it notes and notecards

**Course Policies/Procedures:**

**Attendance/Absences/Makeup Work:** Your presence (mind and body) in class is essential. If you must miss class due to illness or other circumstances beyond your control, it is your responsibility to find out which assignments you missed, to acquire the handouts, and to borrow and copy the class notes for the day(s) you were absent. Come see me before school, during hall changes or after school or check my blog to find out what was missed. I CANNOT GIVE MISSING WORK DURING CLASS! Please be aware that unexcused absences are equivalent to no makeup work which equals a zero. Obtain a note to have absences excused or grades can and will drop quickly.

**Late Assignments:** Your responsibilities in this class include keeping your own up-to-date assignment notebook, maintaining pace with the reading, and turning in all assignments on time. If you do not understand an assignment, ask for help far enough in advance to have time to finish the assignment. If you are having personal difficulties apart from class, talk to me before an assigned due date so that we can make other arrangements. Otherwise, each day an assignment is late, I will subtract a percentage from the grade.

*There is a one week window of time from the time the grade was entered in Infinite Campus to make up assignments. For example, if an exit slip was entered in Infinite Campus on a Wednesday, you have until the following Wednesday’s class to revise or turn in an assignment, so you* ***CANNOT*** *revise or make up from a month or two months prior.*

**Plagiarism/Cheating:** I begin the year with complete trust and faith in each of you. Please do not abuse that trust by being dishonest. Learning cooperatively is great, and I encourage you to get together to brainstorm and discuss assignments. When you sit down to complete an individual assignment, however, let the work be yours alone. Penalties for plagiarism – another word for cheating – are stiff. If two papers resemble each other too closely, I will split the points. *If a paper is obviously copied, whether from a classmate’s work or from the internet, it will receive a zero and will instead be labeled ‘cheated’.*

**Homework:**

Homework is usually assigned once or twice a week excluding reading assignments.

**Reading**:

Throughout the course students will be assigned different reading passage that are usually provided by the teacher, but with one exception. At some point this year every student is required to read ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** by Harper Lee (hence its location on the school supply list). Students will need to provide their own copy of the novel, whether that be from the library, borrowing from a friend or family member, reading it online or purchasing a copy from a bookseller. More specific information will be coming home later this year regarding the timeline and requirements.

**Electronic Devices:**

Cell phones are **not** allowed during my class. I expect phones to be either turned off or silent for the 55 – 60 minutes of English class. If a student needs to contact a parent, they may ask permission and if it is at all possible I will allow them to step out into the hallway to do so.

Consequences of cell phone interruptions (whether checking messages, phone rings, etc.)

**First offense** – phone taken away and returned to student at the end of the period

**Second offense** – phone is taken away and will be returned at the end of the period if the student has signed a cell phone offense form

**Third offense** – phone is taken away and will be returned at the end of the day if the student has signed a cell phone offense form

**All repeated offenses** – phone is taken away and turned into the office with a referral

*Offenses are erased at the end of each quarter.*

While the addition of the Chromebooks is exciting, there simply is not a replacement for the material covered in class. Therefore Chromebooks are NOT to be out unless directed by the teacher. Unless specified otherwise, students should start every class with a notebook and pencil out.

**Contact Information:**

* E-mail – I prefer to be contacted by e-mail. My e-mail address is: [matthew.kuehn@bullitt.kyschools.us](mailto:matthew.kuehn@bullitt.kyschools.us) I will try to respond to an e-mailed question within one school day.
* Telephone – The school’s telephone number is 869-6000 and I will get back to you within one school day.

**THE FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THE CLASS SYLLABUS AS DEEMED NECESSARY.**

**Requirements shall be modified to accommodate students who qualify for specially designed instruction.**

**Please be aware that I adhere to the guidelines outlined in the student handbook.**

**Please note that all freshmen must have a complete writing folder to pass English I (all classes).**

**English I Class Syllabus Information Sheet**

Student name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand the guidelines set by this syllabus. My parent/guardian and I understand that by signing this form we are agreeing to the conditions set forth in this syllabus.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature Parent Signature

**If you would like to share any additional information about your student please do so on the space below.**