Welcome to English Language and Arts class! In this course, students will read, analyze and interpret fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry print and nonprint texts. Students will develop and refine reading, research, writing, and speaking skills to improve their roles as communicators in the twenty-first century.

Course Description

Students can expect this course to be fast-paced and to require them to use higher-level thinking skills. Students will be expected to compare, contrast, construct, argue, evaluate, infer, deduce, analyze, interpret, criticize, apply, synthesize, explain, justify, summarize, revise, write, and test. It will be imperative that students are prepared to be challenged and to work diligently. Because the content for the course is extensive, students should expect to complete coursework independently using Moodle or other materials/sites to guide their endeavors. This independent study will require you to conduct your own research to advance your own learning. Students are expected to have completed the Summer Reading List by the first day of school. Students will further develop their skills in citing textual evidence to support their ideas, conducting research, analyzing print and non-print text, analyzing characters and point of view, reading texts with varying levels of complexity, analyzing the structure of text, communicating effectively in writing and speaking, and evaluating author’s arguments.

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<tr>
<th>Teacher Information:</th>
<th>Course Website:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amber Bhatti</td>
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<td>301-648-8720</td>
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Technology

You are expected to bring your computer with you to class, completely charged, every day! Technology is incorporated into the course on a daily basis. This course uses Moodle, an online space for course materials. Here you will find sources such as flip charts, notes, instructional materials, supplemental readings, assignment/project descriptions, rubrics, etc. Moodle may also be used for submission of many assignments. In addition, you will be required to utilize technology on a regular basis in your research for the course and to complete a variety of assignments and assessments.

Students in English Language and Literature will be exposed to a variety of literary pieces and genres such as drama, short stories, novels, poetry, persuasive, and expository texts. Through
the study of these texts, they will engage in metacognitive activities: considering what they do to interpret a text based on their unique prior knowledge and how they construct an interpretation when meaning breaks down. In other words, students will be armed to fight difficult texts--in high school, college, and life--with an arsenal of literary strategies. They will also analyze texts for stylistic devices authors use to engage their audience. This will serve two purposes: one, that they have the tools necessary to assist them when searching for messages inferred in the text; two, that they can consider their own style and the ways their stylistic choices can engage their audience. Students will practice writing for various purposes and implement tools in their own craft. Finally, students will reflect on their growth as a reader and writer and articulate the purpose behind the strategies; students will be encouraged to collaborate with their peers and begin to voice their thoughts clearly and honestly.

Overall, these units are designed to provide students with tools to critically engage in the world through reading, writing, and dialogue. These skills will prepare students with the foundation they need to be successful throughout their high school career and begin them on the path toward becoming critical, historically and culturally informed citizens.

Course Overview

Research Paper:

Students will be required to write a research paper within the one unit which will be four to six pages in length. This will require independent research, MLA in-text citations, and an MLA Works Cited page.

Course Units:

Unit 1: Taking Care of Our Earth
Essential Question: What are key things man does that contributes to the destruction of the world?
Possible Unit Assessments: quiz(izes), test(s), writing prompts, essay(s), oral presentation(s), constructed response(s), Socratic Seminar(s), Service Learning Team Project.

Unit 2: Under Construction
Essential Question:
Possible Unit Assessments: quiz(izes), test(s), writing prompts, essay(s), oral presentation(s), constructed response(s), Socratic Seminar(s).

Unit 3: Fight for Human Rights
Essential Question: To what extent are concepts of Human Rights subject to contextual concerns and to what extent are they universal?
Possible Unit Assessments: quiz(izes), test(s), writing prompts, essay(s), oral presentation(s), constructed response(s), Socratic Seminar(s) Human Rights in Action Project.
Unit 4: Long Walk to Democracy

Essential Question: How can I use my knowledge about human rights to the benefit of my school and peers?

Possible Unit Assessments: quiz(izes), test(s), writing prompts, oral presentation(s), constructed response(s), Socratic Seminar(s), and essay(s).

Essential Agreements

1. Follow the policies outlined in the student/family handbook, as they all apply to this classroom. You know what actions are appropriate for a classroom setting and what actions are not.
2. Help create a classroom atmosphere of respect. The study of literature requires us to investigate numerous topics and consider varied opinions and perspectives. Every individual in this classroom should feel free to express his/her ideas without fear of ridicule or judgment. Respect yourselves, your peers, and your school.
3. Be responsible. It is up to you to take charge of your own learning and behavior.
4. Come to class prepared. Please bring your folder/notebook, pen/pencil, textbook(s), and completed assignments to class each day.
5. Be aware. Before leaving class for the day, make sure you have recorded information regarding homework and long-term assignments as well as other important announcements.
6. Actively participate in classroom activities and lessons.
7. Be confident. Each of you is capable of achieving great success in this course. Believe in your abilities and your potential to be a successful learner!
8. Come talk to me! If you ever have any questions or need help, do not hesitate to stop by and see me. I will be available both before and after school to discuss any issues or questions. We may also set up a time that is convenient for all involved. I can be reached at amber@onenessfamily.org

Here is what you should expect of me:

1. To provide you with timely, detailed, and constructive feedback regarding your work.
2. To maintain organized grades and classroom materials.
3. To respect your ideas, opinions, viewpoints, and needs.
4. To provide you with clear directions, rules, and expectations to guide your learning.
5. To be available for communication and collaboration with you and your parents/guardians.

Discipline

When the school’s behavior guidelines or agreements are violated, the following general steps are followed:
1. There is communication with the student
2. There is communication with the parent
3. A written record is kept as a marker; and a conference with a parent is set up if necessary
4. A discipline slip serves as a more serious marker.
5. Suspension, Expulsion and/or Recommended Withdrawal

Grading Policy

Your grade for this course will be earned based on a variety of assessments including, but not limited to, quizzes, tests, homework, writing assignments, essays, Socratic Seminars, in-class activities, projects, etc. Please make sure you turn in all of your work on time. Submitting late work will significantly impact your grade. Students will not be tested or required to hand in assignments on the day the student returns from school if they were assigned on the day the student was absent. Students shall adhere to deadlines for tests and projects that were established/assigned prior to the absence.

*Students have equal to the number of days absent for make-up work, test, assignments, reports, etc., up to a maximum of five (5) days without penalty.*

Late Policy:

There will be a 10% deduction from the score of an assignment, when an assignment is submitted late. An assignment is considered late if it is not submitted at the time of collection.

Grading Scale:

A= 90-100  
B= 80-89  
C= 70-79  
D= 60-69  
E= 0-59

Academic Honesty

Your grade is a reflection of your skills, knowledge, and understanding of the course content. Therefore, *any work that is not your own will not be accepted or assessed*. Cheating or plagiarism of any kind will result in a 0% for the assignment. This includes homework, daily-in-class assignments, writing assignments projects, quizzes, and tests. Assignments that required you to use additional resources (books, websites, photographs, etc.) must be properly cited to submit with your work.
Attendance

Attendance is important to student success. All work (in-class and homework) must be made up when a student misses school for any reason—including excused trips. Students going on excused trips must get the assignments BEFORE leaving on their trip, and it is due the day they return to school from their trip. It is the expectation of the teacher that she will be notified of the trip at least a week in advance. Students who are absent from class for ANY reason (field trip, vacation, sports, etc.) are responsible for talking with me to find out what they missed. If a student is in school, but misses English class (sport, appointment, etc.), the student MUST see me beforehand to submit that day’s homework and to find out what he/she will be missing in class. If the student doesn’t do this, the assignments given and collected on that day will be considered late.

The student will need to arrange to make-up missed assessments. (tests, quizzes, etc.)

Formative & Summative Assessments

Formative Assessments: Formative assessments are those that need to be completed to demonstrate progress and/or the need for additional practice or instruction. Failure to complete formative assessments will be reflected in a student’s overall grade.

Summative Assessments: Summative assessments are those that need to be completed to demonstrate mastery of the subject, content, or skill. Failure to complete summative assessments will be reflected in a student’s overall grade.

The late policy (10% deduction) applies to ALL assessments/assignments, this includes both formative and summative work.

Grade Percentages

Marking period grades are calculated for this course using the following categories and percentages.

Homework: 10% Formative Assessments
Daily (in-class) Assignments/Activities: 25%
Projects, Research, & Writing Assignments: 30%
Tests/Quizzes/Exams: 35%

Final Exam

This course also includes a final course examination, which is cumulative, encompassing all subjects and topics studied from throughout the course.
I am looking forward to a great year! :)