Ms. Mikayla Walker

Language Arts Teacher

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**English Syllabus**

**Course Guidelines and Expectations**

Course: English 7/8

Welcome to Ms. Walker’s 12th Grade English class. This year we will look at a variety of exciting materials that will hopefully both challenge us and cause us to think about our world in a different way. We will learn how to write in several different styles and prepare you to enter into the world outside of high school.

**Course Goal:**

This course is designed to prepare you to enter into your 12th grade year of English. It is designed around the Common Core standards for education and is intended to prepare you for college or a career. The Common Core standards are nationwide standards for education. This course also reinforces and expands upon the skills acquired in the 11th grade. To see what the standards are for English, visit<http://www.commoncorestandards.org/ELA-Literacy>.

During this course, students will:

1. Learn to analyze, interpret, and evaluate literature and texts they read.
2. Engage in a variety of discussions: class-wide, small group, presentations.
3. Respond personally and reflectively to a wide range of ideas and discussions.
4. Practice and strengthen the writing process and will develop the knowledge and strategies necessary to edit and participate in the revision process.
5. Develop a whole language approach to the study of English through developing their skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

**Year-Long Units & Projects: \*These may be subject to change.**

* Writing Applications: Senior Project Essay, Research Writing, Persuasive Argumentation
* Epics and Novels: *1984, Frankenstein, The Canterbury Tales, Beowulf*
* Plays: *Hamlet*
* Selections from the Collections HMH textbook
* Current nonfiction to accompany units

**Attendance/Tardy Policy:**

The attendance and tardy policies for this class are in accordance with the policies found within the student handbook. These are:

1-15 min. = Tardy 1st tardy=Warning

16-30 min. =Very late 2nd=Teacher assigned detention

31 or more =Absent 3rd=Assigned detention for 30 min. and 1 absence

If absence is unexcused=Truant 4th=1 hour after school detention

5th=1 out of school suspension and referral to admin.

**Daily Supplies/Class Materials:**

During this course, the following supplies are expected to be present in class:

1 ½ to 2 inch binder

1 set of 6 dividers

Journal (Either a spiral notebook or composition book with **college rule** paper)

Pen (black or blue ink) and pencil.

Highlighters

The journal and most novels/text materials used in the class will be stored in the classroom, in appropriate class shelves. Students will receive one-to-one textbooks, meaning that these are their copy to take home. I will try to provide a place for students to keep their books when necessary. Books and other materials that are labeled “Class copy” should not be marked on or folded.

**Grading Policy:**

* All teachers will use the following grading scale:
  + - A 90-100% (mastery)
    - B 80-89% (proficient)
    - C 70-79% (meets minimum standard)
    - D 60-69% (basic)
    - F 59% and lower (below basic)
* All ELA teachers will weight assignments in a 70/30 ratio
  + - 70% of the grade will be assessment scores
    - 30% of the grade will be practice (class work, homework and quizzes)
* All ELA teachers will allow students the opportunity for corrections
* Corrections will be permitted on formative Writing assessments. Students may revise formative assessments no more than twice and the increase in score will earn at maximum C or 79%. A and B are protected grades, meaning students will not be able to correct up to the A level.
* Corrections will not be acceptable for novel reading quizzes.
* ELA teachers are encouraged to allow students ample opportunity to demonstrate learning on all assignments.
  + - The LAD (Last Acceptable Date) for all assignments and retakes will coincide with the end of the unit of study and will be clearly communicated. Class work and assessments for the timeframe may be accepted up to that LAD.
    - Zeroes will be assigned for past due work with the understanding students may turn in the work until the LAD.
* Because so much of the work in ELA requires original thought and reasoning **cheating, including plagiarism, on ANY assignment, is automatically assigned a failing grade of *zero* for the offending piece or pieces.** In the event two students turn in individual assignments with word for word matching responses, both will receive a 0 on the assignment**. A student who willfully supplies materials to another student for copying is considered subject to the same penalties- both students will receive a 0 score.** In addition, the matter will be entered into Power School and brought to the attention of other school authorities concerning possible further action and consequences.
* The Speaking and Listening standards 9-10.1/11-12.1 *Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade level topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively* and 9-10.6/11-12.6 *Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating a command of formal English when indicated or appropriate* will be regularly assessed as part of the 30% classwork portion of the grade.
* Extra credit may be offered intermittently, at instructor discretion, for meaningful activities tied to the content and standards of our ELA curriculum which arise in the community.

**Make Up Work:**

* It is the student’s responsibility to ask for make-up work for excused absences before school, after school, or during intervention. There will be a box by the door that will house all materials that the student may need.
* It is the student’s responsibility to turn in completed makeup assignments in the appropriate amount of time per student: one day for each day of an excused absence. Assignments given prior to the absence should be submitted on the normally assigned date.

**Assessments:**

Students will be assessed using the Idaho Core State Standards. Each assessment will be linked to one of these standards. Assessments include tests, quizzes, projects, and presentations.

Students will take a minimum of two Nampa School District ELA Assessments. These will be essay assessments and there will be no retakes available.

**Power School:**

Grades will be regularly updated in power school. Here are some tips on how to navigate power school:

1. Assignments are organized by due date. No grade will appear until the assignment has been collected and graded. If a 0 appears, that means the assignment has been graded and the student did not submit any work.
2. Be understanding of time when it comes to grading large projects or assignments. I will do my best to be timely in updating the grades. I will not hand back large assignments until they have all been assessed.
3. Students will receive all of their work back once it has been graded with the exception of district assessments. Please look over these assignments and ask questions if you are unsure of why you received a certain mark.

**Class Procedures:**

* **Start of the Day:** At the beginning of every class period, students are expected to go to the “Notebook” shelf, find their notebook, and take it to their assigned desk. They are also to take out a pen or pencil in order to prepare for a daily opener (journal), which will start shortly after the bell rings.
* **Transitions/Interruptions**: It is my hope that all transitions run smoothly from the start to the end of class. I have set up our classroom desks in such a way that students should not have a problem finding their seat. At the end of the day, students must be in their seats when the bell rings. I will dismiss them once everyone is seated, quiet, and packed up to leave.
* **Cell Phones:** I understand that cell phones are often an important part of student life. I believe that there are opportunities for cell phones to become an aid to student education; however, they can also be a great hindrance. Therefore:
  + Cell phones should always be turned on silent.
  + In rare cases students will be allowed to use their cell phones in class. I will tell students when it is appropriate to use their cell phones. In individual cases, students may ask permission to use their phones and it will be up to me to decide whether or not they can.
* **Student Work/Teacher Led Activities**: This class requires a willingness to voice our opinions and speak up in class (at the appropriate times). There are times when quiet reading/working is necessary, however, I expect there to be on-task talking during class. If students have any questions, I expect to see a raised hand. During individual work, students are allowed to listen to a music device. However, this is something that is an earned privilege and can be taken away at any time. If taken away, it can be earned back.

**Student Responsibilities:**

Students are expected to…

1. Attend class daily.

2. Come to class with the necessary materials to succeed.

3. Be prepared to contribute in class (have homework done).

4. Put effort into the course and all discussion and assignments.

5. Ask questions whenever there is confusion—seek help!

**Class Rules:**

**S**et high standards for yourself and for this class.

**K**eep your resources and materials accessible in order to succeed.

**Y**our work is a reflection of you; show your best angle.

**V**ocabulary is important…be wise with the words you use in class.

**I**magine great results for yourself.

**E**ating in class is allowed only when I am eating.

**W**ait until I dismiss you to leave the class.

\*As a class, we will determine some other rules in regard to how class discussion goes and some of our goals to meet by the end of the year.

Positive behavior will be rewarded by: a written note, parent contact, and/or verbal praise.

Negative behavior will result in:

1. Verbal warning

2. Private meeting during lunch/before/after school

3. Parent contact

4. Detention/Discipline office

\***Keep this syllabus in the front of your binder at all times!**

**Please sign and return this page to Ms. Walker by**

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(Your student is to keep their syllabus in their binder through the course of the year.)

\*I have read and understand the guidelines of this syllabus and am aware of expectations for my student. I am providing the most current information available in the event that Power School is down or contains outdated information and Ms. Walker needs to contact me for any reason.

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Student Name (Print) Student Signature Date

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Parent/Guardian Name(s) (Print) Parent/Guardian Signature Date

**Email Information**

I try to use email as a primary method for contact in order to allow parents to respond when their schedules allow. Please list your current email address so that I can correspond in a timely fashion. Please check Power School on a regular basis and contact me if you have any questions about your student’s grade. My email is: [mwalker@nsd131.org](mailto:mwalker@nsd131.org)

Current Parent Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Current Student Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Cell: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please check this box if there is any medical or instructional considerations that I need to look for in student records or any other information that I should be aware of. As it is the beginning of the year and I am getting to know many students, I want to be aware of this information as soon as possible.

You may add any specific information here: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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I look forward to working with your student this year and am excited for what is to come! –Ms. Mikayla Walker