

Common Sense Rules

1. One person speaks at a time.
2. Stay on task.
3. Follow directions the first time.
4. Be courteous to one another.
5. Use appropriate verbal and non-verbal language.

Consequences

1. Reminder.
2. Warning.
3. Action taken.

These rules seem simple—and they really should be—but sometimes they prove difficult to practice. If you will follow these simple rules, the class will run smoothly and be much more enjoyable for all!

Materials

As a member of this class, I expect that you will have all necessary materials each day. Please do not expect class to stop for you to find a pencil, let you borrow paper or pen from a classmate, or find a textbook for you to use. Our instructional time is limited—coming to class prepared each day will help you get the most out of your learning . . . and that is one of my goals for you while you are in English this year!

You will need:

- pens and pencils
- college-ruled notebook paper
- an agenda book or personal planner (one is provided by the school)
- a 1- inch three-ring binder with pockets & dividers
- textbook or book required for the unit of study
- post-it notes
- a pen drive (a.k.a. USB drive that you may share with other classes)

Your planner and notebook will be essential to you doing well in this course. Write down all assignments in your planner and check them each evening when you get home. In your notebook, you should keep all notes, handouts, and assignments given in class. We will have periodic notebook quizzes and checks. All work—graded or not—should be kept in your notebook in one of the following sections, separated by tabbed dividers: Bellringers, Literature Study, Language Study, Writing/Essays, and Miscellaneous.

When you, your parents or I open your notebook, the first thing we should see is the current syllabus. I will provide you with a detailed syllabus for each unit of study. The syllabus is important because it will let you know what we are studying each day, as well as quiz dates, test dates, and project due dates. I give you a syllabus to help you manage your time and resources and to help you prepare for class and be successful. The syllabus is especially important if you are ever absent; by looking on the syllabus, you can see exactly what we covered and what you need to do to make up the work.

Assignments

- Make sure your writing is legible; illegible assignments will not be graded and may be resubmitted for a late grade
- You may turn in one daily assignment late per grading period (this does not apply to final draft essays or projects); after you have used your one late grade for the nine-weeks, you may not turn in the work and will receive a zero
- Late work must be turned in within five class days of the original due date; beyond that, it will not be accepted
- If you are turning in an assignment after the original due date, please label it as late; if you were absent, please put “absent” at the top of the paper
- Final draft essays and major projects that are turned in late will be docked 15 points for each day they are late

Grading

Academic grades are based primarily on quality of work, effort, improvement, and participation. Assignment grades will be weighted by level of difficulty, amount of time required to complete the assignment, objectives met, and level of mastery expected.

Preparation (homework, classwork, participation) 30%

Assessments (quizzes, essays, presentations, major tests, projects) 70%

Citizenship grades are based on punctuality, attendance, preparedness, willingness to work, class conduct, dependability, honesty, and your over-all work ethic.

Academic integrity violations can include plagiarism, cheating, and unauthorized group work on any assignment, project, or test. If a student is caught the following will occur:

- The student will receive an F with zero credit.
- The citizenship grade will be lowered for the grading period.
- A notice will be recorded with the guidance office.

Any occurrence of academic dishonesty may be reported by the guidance office on college admissions applications. Remember you are here to learn.

Grades will be posted online each week. I expect you to check your grades online regularly and to see me as soon as possible if you have a question about a grade or think a grade was posted in error.

Attendance

- Refer to your agenda book for the rules regarding **excused absences**. If you are absent, you or your parent must excuse the absence with the appropriate documentation on the day of your return. Only the attendance office can excuse absences. Students who have a current attendance failure (four or more unexcused absences) will not be allowed to participate in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities. The attendance office will send out a list each Monday with a list of students with attendance failures. This list will be checked by teachers, coaches, sponsors, etc.
- I strongly urge you to keep a record of your absences in your agenda book or planner. If absences are not excused within one week (5 school days) of the absence, the attendance office may not excuse it.
- When you are absent, please refer to your current unit syllabus to see what you have missed. You or your parents (and it really should be you) can e-mail me to get additional details on what you have missed.
- If an absence is pre-planned, I encourage you to get your work in advance, complete it, and turn it in before leaving for your trip. You will be glad you did once you get back.
- All students are expected to come to class on time. Plan your locker and bathroom visits so that they do not make you late to class.
- Here's the procedure I follow for tardies:
 - First Tardy = warning
 - Second Tardy = fifteen minute detention with me
 - Third Tardy = fifteen minute detention with me and a phone call/email to your parents.
 - Fourth Tardy = counts as a "Late." You will receive a tardy referral to the office and have to serve a lunch detention (assigned by attendance office).

Make-Up Work

After an absence, you are responsible for assignments missed—please do not assume that I will come to you with your make-up work when you are absent. To find out what you have missed, see your syllabus for the current unit and/or talk to me before, at the end of, or after class. You may also wish to consult with another classmate to borrow any notes that were missed during your absence. E-mail is also a great way to communicate with me about missed work.

The number of days allowed for make-up work is determined by the number of days absent. For example, if you are out one day, then you have one day to make up the work; if you are absent two days, then you have two days in which to make up your work.

The student who misses a previously announced test or due date for a major assignment will be required to take the test or turn in the assignment on the day of returning to school. Be sure to make the necessary arrangements before returning to school. Make-up work for unexcused absences will be given to the student upon request, but will not be graded until the absence(s) is excused.

Hall Passes

You are allowed three hall passes per grading period. These passes may be used to go to your locker or to the restroom. If you come to class with a pass from another teacher excusing your tardy, that will count as one of your passes in my class. After three passes to come to class late, your tardy will not be excused.

Dress Code

Check your student agenda book for these rules—especially the ones regarding hats and revealing clothing. Students with dress code violations will be sent to the Student Affairs office to see Mr. Ardley (boys) or the Attendance office to see Ms. Hedrington (girls).

Cell Phones

The current school policy says that students may have cell phones at school, but that they are not to be used during class unless you are instructed to do so by your teacher. If your phone is out where I can see it or if you are using your phone during class without permission, I will take your phone and keep it until after school. The second time I have to confiscate your phone, I will send it to the Student Affairs office and you will have to follow their procedures for getting your phone back. Usually it involves your parents having to come up to the school to get it for you. Please be responsible about using your phone—it is a privilege to have one.

COURSE OVERVIEW: ENGLISH I HONORS & GIFTED

English I is the study of the various **literary genres**, or types of literature. This course is meant to help you build a firm foundation on which to build in later years of high school and college English. Genres studied in 9th grade are:

- Oral Tradition & the Epic
- Short Stories
- Poetry
- Drama
- Novels
- Various Non-Fiction Selections

Major titles we will read in class may include, but are not limited to: *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Odyssey*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Of Mice and Men*. Most, but not all, of our short fiction and non-fiction will come from our textbook.

My goal for this year is to help you become more proficient readers, writers, and speakers. Therefore, not only will you read a wide variety of literary works, you also will spend time in this class **writing and speaking** for various occasions. Most of your writing will be informal practice; however, several times during the year you will refine your writing and prepare a final draft that you will turn in for a major grade. No matter what type of writing we complete in class, I hope you will put forth your best effort and focus your energy on improving throughout the year. **Grammar** will be covered in many different ways. Often we will have short, daily practice on common errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics. Sometimes we'll have small units that will last a week or two, and other times we'll focus on a specific skill as we prepare to write or revise an essay. The primary purpose of studying grammar this year will be to help you become more articulate and engaging communicators, in both your spoken and written work.

All students will be provided with a copy of our textbook, *Florida Collections, 9* (\$61.25) and a Close Reader (\$23.95). If students lose either of these texts, they will have to pay replacement costs before being issued new ones.

I truly look forward to getting to know each of you this year. I'm not going to lie to you—English I Honors/Gifted can be very challenging—but if you'll use the tools and resources I give you, listen in class each day, ask questions, and basically get involved in your studies, I think you'll have a good time and learn a few things along the way as well.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Fulton
fultonm@leonschools.net
classroom phone/voice mail: 617-5700 ext. 1780

I have read and understand the policies and class requirements for Mrs. Fulton's English I class.

Printed Student Name

Printed Parent Name

Student Signature & date

Parent Signature & date