

Mr. Earnshaw – Rm 132

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**Overview:** English 9 covers the complete curriculum goals for 9<sup>th</sup> graders as set by LCSD#2 ELA Curriculum and the Common Core State Standards (<http://www.corestandards.org/>) that Wyoming school districts are transitioning with. This class will feature readings of age and grade appropriate novels, short stories, poems, essays, articles and other texts. Students will respond to these works in writing and speaking/listening exercises, in addition to original writings about a variety of literary and language topics. *As freshmen, the stage is set for college prep and career exploration. This class aims to continue the academic path to these pursuits and also enrich the studies in cross-curricular areas. I am pleased to have this opportunity with you and trust that we can make this class extremely successful together!*

**Class Expectations:** Every person who walks through my classroom doors will be treated as an equal. As such, the same level of respect and personal responsibility that is expected by the administration and staff will continue here. I will not tolerate any disrespect toward students, staff, or guests. I also expect that you will maintain responsibility over any personal belongings and ideas you bring into the classroom. It is my hope that this classroom becomes a community of mutually esteemed learners – everyone within it has the right to learn and teach, as well as feel safe in thought and action.

This class will involve in-depth reading, writing, speaking and listening (often in the same class period!). Some lessons will call for presentations, group work, projects, theatrical productions, and a host of other activities. Please come prepared to learn and share in this experience. You may be asked to step outside your comfort zone in the interest of your education and to meet proficiency standards, but you will never be forced to participate in any activity you do not feel comfortable with.

**Grading: A = 100-90%, B = 89-80%, C = 79-70%, D = 69-60%, F = Below 60%**

This class will assign points for participation, homework, writing assignments, reading assignments, presentations, long-form writings (narrative, persuasive, etc.), projects, quizzes and tests throughout the academic session. **The most common reason students fail this class is due to zeros “achieved” by not turning in assignments!**

**Food and Drink:** Water will be allowed in the classroom in clear containers, but no other food or drink is welcome unless provided by the teacher (please let me know of any allergies or other concerns). Any other request for food (low-blood sugar, e.g.) must be accompanied by a letter/note from a licensed physician.

**Electronic Devices:** No personal electronic devices will be allowed, with only two regulated exceptions. At certain points during a lesson, music may be appropriate to aid in learning or test-taking. If you have a particular piece of music you would like to contribute, please bring it to me via CD, mp3/iPod/ or jump drive so I can preview it and clear it with the classroom standards and expectations. The other exception is e-reader devices: I don't have a problem with students reading books using a Nook or Kindle (NOT smart phones!). Two things to remember – if we are reading in class you must be *reading* on these devices, not playing games/checking the web, and also that **this policy is mine, and not the school's**. *Not all classes will allow e-readers, so you should be sure to have a print book to read as well.*

**Attendance Policy:** Please refer to the “Attendance Policy” on pages 11-14 of your student planner. Specifically to this course, your presence is necessary to achieve a passing grade. Unexcused absences are just that: unexcused. Only for health or school-related situations will missing class time be tolerated. Whether your absence is excused or not, you need to see me about what assignments you may have missed and how they can be made up. If you know ahead of time that you will be missing class, please let me know at least one (1) full school day early so that I may prepare your work. **If you miss a day of school, come in on Friday to catch up!**

Tardiness is also to be avoided. One tardy will be allowed per student. Two or more will result in the possible loss of participation points. Four will result in administration intervention as stated in the handbook.

**Homework:** In years past, this course featured one, little to moderately difficult, homework assignment every week assigned on the first class and due on Friday. Due to the new, four-day school week – as well as the need to meet our curriculum goals – it may still be necessary to assign homework or readings. However, it is my goal that homework does not replace learning, but reviews or prepares for it. **Please keep a diligent planner and make use of the Remind app to know exactly when certain assignments may be due.** It is my goal to cover any assignment from that week by Thursday's class.

Some tips: there is never any harm in turning in assignments as early as possible! Also, a smart student often keeps all of their homework assignments until the quarter or semester ends. That way, if a discrepancy in the grade book does appear, they can produce the item for a revision.

**Late/Missing Work:** Any work assigned during the week will be due on Thursday. If it is not turned in on that day, you will have one (1) week to turn it in without loss of points. If it is not turned in by the following Thursday, it will earn a zero in the grade book. Larger projects/papers, based upon the nature of the assignment, will see point reductions every day not submitted. Extraordinary causes for extensions may be considered, but on a case-by-case basis.

**IF YOU MEET MY CLASS EXPECTATIONS, COME TO CLASS EVERYDAY, AND TURN IN EVERY ASSIGNMENT ON TIME, THERE IS NO REASON WHY YOU SHOULD NOT PASS THIS CLASS WITH A “B” OR BETTER.**

**Friday School:** To better accommodate student needs, this year marks the debut of a four-day school week as well as Friday School. Students who are ineligible (holding a grade lower than a 70%) or those with other issues – whether attendance, behavior, or time management – are expected to attend Friday school from 8-10am (offered most weeks). This student time may be a consequence of student action, but may also be an opportunity. Any student who is interested in extended tutoring or a block of time to work on projects is welcome to attend as well. Please visit my website and check the Remind app to know what is on each Friday’s schedule.

**Materials:** There are four items students must have *every day* to be counted as prepared and on time. Failure to have all items may result in loss of participation points or equal lunch detention. These items must be available at the beginning of class (not in lockers, the library, etc.):

- Students need to bring free, loose-leaf paper to every class. DO NOT tear paper out of the Writer’s Notebook (WNB) to fit this need.
- Students must have a writing utensil, pencil or pen, in every class. Please do not use gel pens or colors difficult to see on graded pieces.
- Students should have their planner at all times. It is required to use the planner in my class to record assignments. This is for a grade. Handbook or tablet may be used.
- Students must bring a reading book to every class. It needs to be available when the bell rings. Excuses about needing to go to the library or a locker will not be accepted. Take care of this before class. There is a selection of books available for checkout in the classroom, but there is also a procedure for this not to take place in instructional time. Please see the note for e-books in the topic “Electronic Devices” above.

Assignments such as HW must be brought to class with these items above.

It is my suggestion that students keep a notebook/journal and a folder for this course to keep track of notes and important handouts, but it is not a requirement. Students who succeed in the “Materials” section often keep all of these items in an English-specific binder for class use.

**Waste/Recycling:** Trash goes in the trash can. Paper and cardboard, as well as other recyclable materials, have a special bin as well. Please do your part to be a conscientious citizen.

**Research/Library:** As an English class, we make extensive use of the library and its databases. Please familiarize yourself with the school library sites and links. Please bring a Laramie County Library Card to school on research days, and be in good standing with the library resources by returning checked out books and following the technology use agreement.

**THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO REVIEW, AND CHANGES MAY BE MADE! We have a new school year with some new procedures and schedules, so please bear with me.**

If you have any questions concerning the information contained in this packet, please do not hesitate to contact me at [Justin.Earnshaw@laramie2.org](mailto:Justin.Earnshaw@laramie2.org).

**PLEASE KEEP THE TOP PORTION OF THIS PAGE, AND THE PREVIOUS PAGES, FOR YOUR RECORDS! DO NOT GIVE THEM BACK TO ME!**

I'm glad to see that you made it this far. Those last three pages are an "official" syllabus, one that I have to write for college and school board purposes. I completely stand by all of the information in there, but want to use this space to clarify the highlights.

1. This is a classroom of respect and tolerance. Hate and bad attitudes are checked at the door. You're having a bad day? Let me know, but don't let it guide you.

2. I have very high standards for myself and for you, but I'm not a tyrant. This class can be, and has been, fun! Feel free to talk to me anytime about what you need. *You will work in this class, but you will play too.*

3. We're serious about attendance and Friday School. The district's move was initiated and designed with the high school student in mind – come to class every day, on time, and expect to see me Friday if you missed or messed up that week!

4. It is my goal to be a tech-connected classroom. Please sign up for Remind as soon as possible, and make use of my website to connect with the content.

5. There will be many changes this year, and some of the lessons or policies I must transplant or adopt could hit some snags. Do not worry – I am an educated professional who cares greatly about what I do here, I am flexible and easy to talk to, and I know how to say I'm sorry, working to reflect and rectify. Please try to do the same!

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**Please have this bottom portion signed and returned to complete your first homework assignment. Please keep the top for your records!**

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE INFORMATION PRESENTED IN THIS DOCUMENT, AND WILL ENCOURAGE MY STUDENT TO ACHIEVE HIS OR HER GREATEST POTENTIAL IN THIS CLASS.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Hour: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please add any comments below or on the back of this portion: