



English Language Arts 9

Mrs. Stanley

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Room 301

Course Description

The goal for English Language Arts 9 is to build a solid foundation of knowledge, skills, and strategies that will be refined, applied, and extended as students engage in more complex ideas, texts, and tasks. In English Language Arts 9, students will be introduced to the various genre of classic and contemporary narrative and informational texts that will be read and analyzed throughout high school. The narrative and informational texts will also connect WMAA students to their passion – aviation. Ninth graders will connect with and respond to texts by analyzing relationships within and across families, communities, societies, governments, and economies. Through the lens of Inter-Relationships and Self-Reliance, they will consider how they build relationships, how their relationships impact others, and their responsibility to society. Throughout the year WMAA students will see the importance of effective communication in aviation as well as identify the aviation connections to our narrative and informational texts.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, WMAA students will be able to:

- Read and analyze career-related literature to develop awareness of employment opportunities and utilize EXPLORE results to assist in formulating a tentative personal/career goal and action plan for reaching the goal.
- Identify and use aspects of author's craft in descriptive writing.
- Write instructions and create visuals for completing a complex task.
- Write a persuasive essay with supporting evidence.
- Problem-solve in small group discussions and assess personal performance by analyzing group dynamics.
- Investigate a community issue, using multiple resources and design an authentic project to promote social action.
- Write examples of specific genres to exhibit their characteristics and techniques.
- Be introduced to various components of high school reading.
- Read/view and analyze drama to determine characteristics of the genre.
- Listen to presentations on technical topics, evaluating and analyzing content, structure, and visual elements.
- Read contemporary realistic fiction to understand literary elements of novels, films, and poetry.
- Read, view, and listen to classic, contemporary, and multi-cultural texts to describe archetypal characters and human experiences in literature.

- Read epic poetry to construct meaning and analyze for literary structure and historical and cultural context.
- Deliver a presentation that describes or demonstrates the steps of a complex task and incorporates visuals.
- Read narrative, informational, and technical texts to build meta-cognitive skills and construct meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary, using syntax, text cues, and roots and affixes.
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Textbooks and Resources

ELA 9 will use Literature, Holt McDougal. Additionally ELA 9 will supplement the textbook with the following resources:

- *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- *Sadlier-Oxford Vocabulary Level D*
- *Romeo and Juliet*
- *Daily Oral Grammar*
- *The Odyssey*

Grades

Students will earn a final grade each semester based on mastery of the course objectives. The cumulative semester course work will comprise 20% of the final semester grade, and assessment and projects will comprise 60% of the final semester grade. A cumulative semester exam will comprise 20% of the final semester grade. The final semester grade will be used in determining a student's grade point average (GPA).

| West Michigan Aviation Academy Grading Scale | | |
|--|------------|-------------|
| Letter Grade | Percentage | Grade Point |
| A | 95-100% | 4.0 |
| A- | 90-94% | 3.7 |
| B+ | 87-89% | 3.3 |
| B | 83-86% | 3.0 |
| B- | 80-82% | 2.7 |
| C+ | 77-79% | 2.3 |
| C | 73-76% | 2.0 |
| C- | 70-72% | 1.7 |
| F | 0-69% | 0.0 |

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| INC | Incomplete Coursework | N/A |
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Coursework & Academic Integrity

WMAA is committed to providing opportunities for students to show mastery of academic standards. All assignments must be completed before class begins. Larger assignments (papers, unit assessments, etc.) are due regardless of whether or not you are in school that day. In such circumstances, you may email the assignment. Communication will occur frequently between teachers, students, and their parent/guardian concerning missing work. It is the student's responsibility to meet with the teacher to determine the action plan to deal with extensive missing work.

If coursework is not turned in on time, a zero will be recorded in the grade book until the work is submitted. This zero will be accompanied in the grade book with a "missing" marker so that the reason for the zero is evident. If the allowable time period to make up the work has passed, the zero will become a permanent grade.

There are exceptions to the above for extenuating circumstances. Keep your teachers in the loop. Sometimes life happens, and when it does, be proactive and seek a solution. If you are genuinely concerned that you will not be able to complete something on time, seek me out before, not after, and together we can develop a way for you to successfully complete the work.

All plagiarism is taken seriously. Any three consecutive words from another person's work must be cited properly. Copying from another's work (peer or published author) will not be tolerated and will result in dismissal of the assignment's credit for any participating parties for a first offense. See overall school policy for information about further offenses.

Classroom Policies

1. Respect others, the teacher, yourself, and the material. We all benefit when we feel valued and respected, so listen when others are speaking, treat the material and the classroom with dignity and maturity, and respect yourself by putting forth the best you possess.
2. Participate as much as possible and do not be afraid to risk being wrong. We often learn the most from making a few mistakes and taking the risk of having the wrong answer.
3. Leave food, drinks (apart from water), phones, and iPods outside of the classroom. No cell phones or other electronics unless otherwise indicated by me. Please keep Chromebooks tucked away until given instruction to have them open and on.
4. Be organized: Arrive on time with all the necessary materials. "On time" means in your seat, ready to learn when the bell rings. Use the bathroom, drinking fountains, and lockers between classes.
5. Gratuitous profanity in speech and in writing is unacceptable. Students are expected and encouraged to find clean, creative, grammatically sound ways of voicing disapproval, etc.

6. All rules, including uniform, in the student handbook will be enforced.

Attendance & Tardies

Attendance: It is very important to be in class, as each day's content builds on the previous day's work. When you are absent, it is your responsibility to get your missed work and set up a time to meet with me to clear up any confusion. For each day of class missed, students are allowed one day to make up the missed work. All work turned in late must be accompanied by a note explaining why it is late (so that I know that it is late due to absence). Any time a student misses class, it is encouraged that they check the course website to see what was done in class that day so that they are aware of what will need to be done to catch up. Students absent on the date of a test or a quiz must make up tests and quizzes as soon as possible, at the latest within two days of return except in the case of long-term absences.

Tardiness: All students are expected to be in their assigned classroom as the final bell sounds. Any student that comes to class after the bell, but within the first 10 minutes of class will be marked tardy for that class period. Any student arriving more than 10 minutes late to a class will be considered absent for that class period. Habitual tardiness will be dealt with between the teacher, the student, and his or her family. If the problem persists, further conversations will occur between Mr. Fisher, the student, and his or her family to determine a plan of action to correct the behavior.

Character

Additionally, students will be evaluated on their character choices for each course. The character evaluation will reflect student mastery of WMAA's critical character expectations: be respectful, be responsible and do your personal best.

3 – Exceeding Expectations

2 – Meeting Expectations

1 – Currently Not Meeting Expectations

Resources

Gradebook - Powerschool Login: <http://ps.westmichiganaviation.org/public/>

Literacy Lab Classroom Website: <http://stanley15.weebly.com/>

West Michigan Aviation Academy Website: <http://www.westmichiganaviation.org>