

**Mrs. Armstead's English 9 Regular
2008-2009 Syllabus**

Course Title: English 9 Regular

Teacher Name: Mrs. Armstead

Contact Information: **School phone:** 410 313 6945

Planning Periods: 3 (9:19-10:09); 4B (10:14-12:20)

After School Hours: M-F (typically until 4:00pm)

Email: samantha_armstead@hcpss.org

Course Description: During this course, which examines the world of discourse, students will analyze and demonstrate in their own writing the importance of structural elements in a personal narrative, the role of character development and point of view in descriptive writing, the use of literary techniques in poetry, debates, and persuasive essays, and the unifying nature of a theme in an expository essay (Howard County Course Description). These units are intended to help students synthesize their understanding of the elements of literature introduced throughout middle school. All four units integrate literature, composition, and language instruction (Ninth Grade Curriculum).

Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

At the conclusion of this course it is expected that the students will be able to:

- Identify features of language that create personal voice and tone (1.3.3).
- Use a variety of pre-writing strategies (2.2.1).
- Control language by applying the conventions of Standard English in writing and speaking (CLG 3).
- Identify specific words, phrases, images, and symbols that support a personal response to a poem or persuasive essay (4.1.2).

Daily Supplies and Learning Materials:

- Binder (specifically for English) with dividers and loose-leaf
- Pens/pencils/highlighter(s)
- Sadlier-Oxford vocabulary book (student purchase)
- Agenda Book (this is your hallway and restroom pass)
- Assigned novel

*Dividers will include: Warm-up, Notes, Writing, Literature, and Assignments

Armstead's Expectations:

- Be on time.
 - Enter the classroom and be seated quietly by the late bell.
 - Promptly begin working on the warm-up.
- Be prepared.
 - Bring required materials to class on a daily basis (items listed above).
 - Students will not be permitted to visit lockers during class time.
- Be attentive.
 - Pay attention during class: listen and respond appropriately during lessons.
 - Avoid side conversations, passing notes, sleeping, placing head on desk, grooming, and/or eating.
- Be respectful.
 - Respect is expected for the classroom, materials, equipment, peers and teacher.
 - Rude and unkind behavior is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

Classroom Rules:

- There is no eating/drinking (**other than water**) in the classroom.
- Students must maintain a clean work area. Trash is to be thrown away, desks are to be straightened, and chairs pushed in upon dismissal.
- Tardiness is unacceptable. First time for the year = warning; after the first occurrence consequences will follow school policy. Late students must have a signed pass.
- Students are expected to participate in discussions, group and individual activities, and student presentations.
- When the teacher is speaking or a peer is sharing a response, withhold comments respectfully until called upon.
- Ask topic appropriate questions. Unrelated questions should be asked before/after class or when solicited by Mrs. Armstead.
- Avoid grooming oneself during class: this includes brushing hair; applying make-up; adjusting outfits; spraying perfume, cologne, body splash or deodorant, etc.

School Policies:

1) Academic Integrity (Cheating/Plagiarism) Policy:

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Consequence</u>
a. 1st Offense	0 points on assignment Parent phone call Referral to administration Saturday School
b. 2nd Offense	Contract Room

2) Lateness to Class Policy:

a. 1st Offense	Teacher Warning
b. 2nd Offense	Teacher Detention/Parent Phone Call

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| c. 3rd Offense | Office Referral-Detention |
| d. 4th Offense | Two Detentions |
| e. 5th Offense | Saturday School |
| f. 6th Offense | Contract Room |
| g. 7th Offense | Suspension Until Parent Conference |
| h. 8th Offense | Administrative Discretion |

3) Class Cut Policy:

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|----------------|------------------------------------|
| a. 1st Offense | Parent Contact/Detention |
| b. 2nd Offense | Two Detentions |
| c. 3rd Offense | Saturday School |
| d. 4th Offense | Contract Room |
| e. 5th Offense | Suspension Until Parent Conference |
| f. 6th Offense | Discretion/Suspension |

4) Hats/Walkman/CD Players/iPods/PSP/Cell Phones and Other Electronics:

These items are not permitted during the school day. Electronic devices are prohibited from 7:20am until 2:10pm. Cell phones must be turned off during the school day. Hats are prohibited from the minute students enter OM until 3:00pm. If any of the above mentioned are seen/heard during the day they will be confiscated until a parent/guardian retrieves them from the front office.

Grading Policy:

- Assignments: Various activities are assigned over the course of the year, including home/classwork, quizzes, tests, assessments, projects, and formal/informal writing assignments. Point values for these assignments will be determined on a raw point scale. Mrs. Armstead's assignments are not weighted. A rubric is provided for all projects, papers and other writing assignments. Criteria for each of these assignments will be discussed and reviewed in class as activities occur.
- Homework: Homework is an integral part of this course and often acts as a buffer for balancing quiz, test, and project scores. Homework will be assigned nightly and reviewed daily. Typically, any homework assigned dictates or reinforces the next day's activity/discussion. These assignments usually range between 10 and 20 points.
- Extra Credit: Extra credit rarely occurs. Do not request extra credit assignments or projects, as these do not exist.
- Grading Scale:

100-89.5%	A
89.4-79.5%	B
79.4-69.5%	C
69.4-59.5%	D
59.4- ↓ %	E

This is in accordance with the Howard County Board of Education.

- Student Feedback: Students will receive one grade report printout prior to interim reports and one grade report printout prior to quarterly report cards to ensure

progress awareness. Teacher/student conferences will occur randomly throughout the quarter. Parents and/or students may request grade printouts via conference, email, or telephone conversation.

- Make-up Work: If absent you are required to bring in a signed and dated (parent/guardian) note explaining the absence. Present this to your first period teacher and he/she will fill out a pass; this is to be initialed by all teachers. Make-up work is not assigned until this procedure is fulfilled. Amount of days absent = the number of days to complete the work. If you exceed the number of allotted days or fail to communicate with the teacher, you will receive a zero for incomplete work. Unexcused absences = an automatic zero.
- If you exceed 9 days of unexcused or a combination of excused/unexcused absences (everyday class) or 4.5 days (every other day class) you are likely to be denied credit. See your teacher.
- Late Work: Late assignments are not accepted. A minimum of 10% per day (teacher discretion) will be deducted for late projects and formal writing assignments. Missing assignments severely affect your grade.

Course Content:

Grammar

Parts of speech
Parts of a sentence
Phrases
Fragments
Run-on sentences
Language Strand curriculum

Mechanics

Capitalization
Punctuation
Spelling

Usage

Completing sentences
Combining sentences
Revising sentences
Speech patterns

Speaking/Listening

Oral directions/listening
Note taking
Class discussion/participation

Vocabulary

Dictionary use
Context clues
Proper usage of terms
Figurative language

Research Process

Credibility/Validity
Locating/retrieving information
(databases)
Applying information
Note taking
Drafting
Peer editing
Revision
Parenthetical Documentation
Works Cited

Composition

Timed writings
BCR/ECR structures
Basic terms (thesis, topic
sentence, attention grabber,
evidence, transition)
Paragraph construction
(expository, narrative,
persuasive, and descriptive)
Paper formatting

Literature

Short stories
Poetry
Novels
Articles

Course Outline: (9th Grade English) The World of Discourse

1st Quarter (August 25th-November 3rd)

Unit: Writers Record Experience

Text: Night, by Elie Wiesel

Skills: Writing Process

Personal Narrative

Research Process

2nd Quarter (November 5th-January 23rd)

Unit: Writers Invent Character and Point of View

Text: Lord of the Flies, by William Golding

Skills: Character Development

Character Analysis

3rd Quarter (January 27th-April 3rd)

Unit: Writers Create Meaning: Theme

Text: To Kill a Mockingbird, by Harper Lee

Skills: Critical Reading

Literary Analysis

4th Quarter (April 14th-June 16th)

Unit: Writers Choose Language

Text: Raisin in the Sun, by Lorraine Hansberry

Skills: Play Format

Dialect

Fluency

Poetry

Grammar is consistent with the *Howard County Language Strand*.

- ❖ **You must bring assigned texts to class on a daily basis.**
- ❖ **Loss of assigned OM texts results in a designated fine (based on school purchase price). Failure to pay fines results in placement on the *Student Obligation List*; consequences follow according to school policy.**

Mrs. Armstead's Parent/Guardian and Student Acknowledgment Form:

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Please complete this sheet accurately and return it to Mrs. Armstead via your son or daughter. Student should place the syllabus in his/her English binder or folder for future classroom reference.

Student Name: _____ **Period:** _____

Home Address: _____

Student Mode of Transportation: (circle one)

Bus Parent/Guardian Pick-up Student Driver Walk Other: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) NAME and RELATION to student:

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Student Signature*: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Signature*: _____ **Date:** _____

*Signature indicates that the parent/guardian and student have read these policies and understand the penalties for any violations.