Parallel English 9

2020-2021

Ms. Juliet Polk

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**Course Overview**

Parallel English 9 is a modified Language Arts class covering a range of skills and content within the standard English 9 curriculum. The ultimate aim of this class is to thoroughly prepare students for the rigor of University education and employment. The class will encompass the major elements of English: Reading, Writing, and Speaking and Listening. Students will be expected to obtain a high level of proficiency in all three areas. The content will be informed by the Common Core Standards.

**English 9 is a graduation requirement. Failure to complete both semesters with a D or higher will mean that a student must retake one or both semesters, which can possibly put that student off-track to graduate. Guardians and students should regularly consult Aeries to monitor progress.**

**Remind Information**

**Remind 101: Text 81010 Message: @polkeng9**

**Supplies**

For distance learning, students must have:

* **Writing Tools:** pencils, pens, highlighters, colored pencils, erasers, etc.
* **Springboard:** have your textbook ready to work in during class sessions. Reminders will be sent when Springboard will be used during Zoom **OR** for homework purposes.
* **Journal/Notebook:** composition book, spiral-bound notebook or similar item
* **Stable Wi-Fi connection:** Zoom requires a strong bandwidth to perform effectively, so students will need
* **Electronic Device(s):**  laptop, smartphone, tablet, etc. These will be used to log into daily Zoom class meetings and to complete daily assignments and tasks.
* **Suitable working area:** desk, tabletop, portable tray for bed/couch, etc. It is recommended for students to have a quiet, consistent and stable area to complete their assignments and attend Zoom meetings from.

***\*\*\*Any family that may have trouble getting these items should contact the teacher and/or front office\*\*\****

**Grade Composition and Information**

Parallel English 9 will be graded on the following scale **each quarter**:

Participation: 10%

Classwork: 20%

Tests: 30%

Essays and Projects: 40%

Classwork will generally be graded for effort or mastery, but Tests and Essays will be graded exclusively for mastery

***\*\*\*Average of Q1 and Q2 grades will be the final semester grade. If there is an error on the progress report, email Ms. Polk to explain the error\*\*\****

**In Class Assessments**

Students will be assessed in three major ways:

* **Multiple Choice Tests**: These are created by the district to measure progress. These will generally involve unseen texts and will require the application of skills learned in class. District testing happens twice per year and will be recorded in the gradebook for participation points.
* **Reading Quizzes:** Students are expected to follow along with in-class readings, and related activities. Simply reading a summary of the text will generally not allow students to be successful on a reading quiz.
  + **NO READING QUIZZES IN QUARTER 1**
* **On-Demand Paragraphs**: This is the primary way that MASTERY in the content covered in units will be measured. Students will write 1-2 paragraphs. Students should expect an assessment of this kind during each unit to measure progress and understanding of concepts. These items will be graded based on a rubric for mastery and will be based on texts studied previously in class.
  + **1 PARAGRAPH DURING QUARTER 1**
* **Extended Writing Assignments and Projects:** This will include essays, research projects, presentations, persuasive writing, and/or creative writing. Outlines and rough drafts must be turned in with completed written compositions for credit before submitting final drafts. This is to show the redrafting process and to ensure it is the work of the student. ***No essay will be graded without an outline or rough draft when it has been requested.*** All citations and quotations must be made according to the guidelines set out by the Modern Language Association (MLA). Students can purchase their own copy of the handbook published by the association, or use a website such as [www.easybib.com](http://www.easybib.com).
  + **1 SHORT ESSAY/PRESENTATION AT END OF QUARTER 1**

***\*\*\*Any large assignment that necessitates the use of technology will be supported by the teacher. Class time will be provided to use electronic devices, or computers will be made available during Patriot Plus\*\*\****

**Daily Classwork, Participation and Homework**

All classwork is generally due on the date it is assigned, and will **need to be submitted through the class portal on Canvas**. If a student leaves class early for any reason, it is their responsibility to complete it and turn it in by the end of the day (11:59pm) it is due by.

**Participation points will be awarded for on-task behaviors and attendance of Zoom meetings, and will be entered in the gradebook each week.** Students have the opportunity of earning 10 participation points each class, based on attendance and preparation for class meetings.

**Attendance and Tardy Policy**

Students are expected to attend class each day that school is in session and keep absences to a minimum. Attendance will affect the student’s academic grade. Students with excessive truancies may earn a failing grade and not receive credit for the class.

Tardies will be recorded if a student is **more than 10 minutes late** to the Zoom session, unless internet connection difficulties are present. If there are any complications in logging into class sessions, **email Ms. Polk** to clear attendance and to determine next steps.

During Distance Learning, attendance will be taken based on participation during class Zoom meetings, and recorded on a weekly basis, in addition to the completion of assignments.

**Distance Learning Zoom Expectations**

1. Students must attend “class” through Zoom meetings during each assigned class period every week.
2. Once you log in, type your **first and last name** before joining our Zoom meeting, with **video on** to verify attendance.
3. Students will need to mute their microphones whenever they are not speaking, or while the teacher is actively talking.

**Absence**

Students who are absent from school shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests, as long as that absence is not determined to be truant by the school’s attendance office. Upon satisfactory completion, the student shall be allowed to **receive up to full credit** for completed work. **It is the student’s responsibility to obtain any missing work from the teacher.** Monitor grades in Aeries to check for any missing assignments.

**Late Work**

All assigned work is due on the date stated by the teacher, and will be accepted **up to** the end of the day (11:59pm), unless arranged to turn in later due to extended time. Essays and projects may be turned in late within 1 week of the due date for the possibility of full credit. Tests and quizzes must be taken when administered, unless arranged to submit early or later, due to use of extended time.

**Conduct**

During Distance Learning, students are expected to practice appropriate and respectful behaviors towards their peers, the teacher, and ultimately themselves. Examples of these behaviors are listed below:

1. Attending class Zoom meetings on time, and in an appropriate working environment.
2. Muting microphones while others are speaking.
3. No use of profane or offensive language while participating in class meetings, or in the chat box.
4. Wearing appropriate clothing during class meetings, in accordance with the school dress code.

**Academic Dishonesty**

Any student who knowingly presents ideas, language or visuals as their own that were generated by another person will receive **no credit** for that assignment. Essays will regularly be screened for instances of plagiarism, and two or more instances within a single composition are sufficient evidence of academic dishonesty. The student will be given a zero, families will be contacted, and the incident will be referred to administration.

**Class Texts**

The core texts we will concentrate on are listed below. Please note that they will be supplemented by a range of shorter fiction, nonfiction, and film versions (as applicable).

*Springboard English 9*

Tim Burton films

*To Kill A Mockingbird*

*Romeo and Juliet*

Students are encouraged to make use of study guides such as cliff notes or [www.sparknotes.com](http://www.sparknotes.com) but should not be used to replace reading the actual book. Referring exclusively to them is likely to lead to low test scores and unfamiliarity with the core text.