

Honors English 1 Course Introduction and Policies

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Student Name:

Welcome! I'm glad that you've decided to take on the challenge of Honors English 1 this year. Your decision shows that you are dedicated to working hard and committed to improving your language skills and preparing yourself for college-level courses. I expect you to find this journey challenging, at times even difficult, but if you persevere, you will be rewarded with deeper critical thinking and clear communication skills.

This course focuses on English language and literature: reading, writing, speaking, and, most importantly, thinking. We will read and analyze a variety of genres, some of which you will choose yourself and others that I will choose for you. You should expect to read and write in every class period. You should also expect to spend time discussing your thoughts with your classmates, sometimes in small groups and sometimes with the whole class. This honors-level class requires you to exercise maturity and thoughtfulness — traits that will serve you well as you prepare for college. Keep an open mind, and approach both the works we read and our class discussions with respect.

Selected Texts

Throughout the year, we read a variety of genres and short pieces. Students may be asked to purchase a copy of the book to annotate. Contact me if your student has a need for a school-provided copy.

Whole-class longer works are listed below:

- *Unwind* by Neil Shusterman
- *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller
- *Animal Farm* by George Orwell

Note: Please peruse the list of 3 whole-class books listed above and sign at the end of this letter to grant your student permission to read these books with the class during the first semester.

In addition, during the second semester, students will choose two books to read from the list below:

- *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card
- *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon
- *Illustrated Man* by Ray Bradbury
- *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer
- *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
- *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy
- *Untwine* by Edwidge Danticat
- *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson

A letter will be sent to parents regarding these 8 books in the second semester.

Required Supplies

- Students will, of course, need a **pen**, a **red pen**, and **paper**.
- **Highlighters**, several colors
- **Post-it Notes** (donate these to the class - we use them extensively for annotating and discussion)
- **1" Binder** (You need to stay organized to keep up in class. **The binder will be required.**)
- **5 Dividers**

Getting Help

See me 8-8:30 before school, ask during class, drop a comment on Google Classroom. I want you to be successful. Let me know if you're struggling.

Honors English 1 Homework and Grading Policies

Grades

Grades are comprised of 2 categories, which are established by BISD:

- 50% MAJOR: Multiple choice exams, essays, projects
- 50% MINOR: Quizzes, daily reading and writing, homework
- Extra credit is not available.

Homework in Honors English 1 consists primarily of reading and annotating the story or chapter that we will discuss and write about in class. While the homework is not time-consuming, it is nevertheless **essential** that students finish it and come to class prepared.

Late Homework Policy				
Turned in by the START of class on the due date.	Turned in by the next day at 8 AM.	Turned one class period late.	Turned in two class periods late.	No credit after two class periods.
Full credit	-15 points	-30 points	Half Credit	

Students who have a 504 plan with extra time will have an extended deadline according to the time set in their plan. After that, the regular policy applies. Keep in mind that we will be using these passages in class.

- **Absent** work must be turned in within one class period of return to class. After that, absent work is subject to the late grading policy.
- If you had homework due upon return to class and were absent, that homework is due upon your return to class, not one class period later.
- Any student turning in either absent or late work **must fill out the Missing Work Form on Google Classroom in order to get the grade updated**. I update that by Friday afternoon each week. If it's not updated by then, email me and let me know.

Honors English 1 Google Classroom Codes

1st Period	o4mvcny
6th Period	h4ypxm4

I understand the challenges of the class, the procedures, the policies, and the books that will be read.

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____