

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

## English 9 Syllabus 2019 - 2020

### Introduction:

Welcome to *English Language Arts* in the PACE program! My name is Mr. Agnello and I will be your English teacher this year. I hope everyone enjoyed their summer and is geared up and ready for an exhilarating and eventful school year!

### Overview:

English Language Arts is designed to advance your proficiency in analytical reading, writing, speech, and communication skills. The literature component of the course offers an introduction to several genres including novels, short stories, dramas, non-fiction articles, and poetry.

### Required Literature:

There are two core novels that we will be studying this year. Each novel will be thoroughly taught over a sufficient period of time and all major concepts, literary elements, and themes will be discussed at length in class. **Everyone is expected to participate and read thoroughly in order to analyze and understand the text.** Our course readings and classroom discussions may focus on mature and potentially challenging topics. All of us should feel responsible for creating a space that is both intellectually rigorous, safe, and **respectful.**

The works of literature we will read this year include but are not limited to:

- Monster, by Walter Dean Myers
- Romeo and Juliet, by William Shakespeare
- OR
- The Perks of Being a Wallflower, by Stephen Chbosky

Throughout the participation of each required novel, we will gain an understanding of a number of literary elements/devices; explore the various ways in which language is applied in the text; develop an awareness of characters, themes, and motifs; and **most importantly, learn to become active, analytical, proficient readers**

### Other Core Texts:

- Poems
- Short Stories
- Non-Fiction Articles

**Vocabulary:**

Building your vocabulary will also be a main component of this course. You will be given vocabulary words that are extracted from either a vocabulary workbook or words that are used in the novels/short stories/non-fiction articles we are discussing in class. It is your responsibility to not only define the words given to you, but also understand and recall the words in preparation for each vocabulary quiz. Building your vocabulary will help you in a multitude of ways including but not limited to; becoming a proficient reader, advancing your communications skills, and allow for easier understanding of topics that are introduced to you.

**Writing Component:**

During the year we will be working on specific writing projects to further advance your writing proficiency and analytical skills. The writing pieces we will be working on include but are not limited to:

- Descriptive Essay/Compare and Contrast Essay
- Narrative Essay
- Argumentative Essay
- Text-Analysis Essay
- Poems
- Mission Statements
- Writing Prompts

**Grading Policy:** The Grading Format below states the percentage that each area is worth when calculating your quarterly grade:

- Quizzes ..... 15% of quarterly grade
- Class-work/Homework ..... 20% of quarterly grade
- Tests/Projects/Writing Pieces.....30% of quarterly grade
- Class Participation.....35% of quarterly grade

**Class Participation/Behavior:**

Your class participation grade is based on your behavior and the level of effort you put into the class. **This means coming to class on time and prepared, paying thoughtful attention throughout class, contributing during discussions/readings/activities, and treating others in a respectful manner.** \*In addition, everyone will be expected to read out loud throughout the school year as a part of your participation grade. It is imperative that we have a safe and welcoming learning environment where everyone feels comfortable to learn and challenge him or herself.

Since class participation/behavior is the **LARGEST** percentage of your quarterly grade, a point system will be implemented on a daily/weekly bases to determine your class participation grade each week. The point system allows YOU to have control of YOUR grade; teaching you responsibility and accountability.

### **PBIS Point System:**

- Each day is worth 20 points (totaling 100 points at the end of the week)
- 4 points are awarded for showing up on time, prepared and ready to work.
- 7 points for completion of work (class work and homework)/participation
- 9 points for having good behavior and respect

\*We will discuss in class what each one of these expectations looks like.

By adhering to these expectations you will see success in my class. Not only will you receive a high class participation grade for earning points in my class, but you will also be rewarded as both an individual and as a class for earning points during the school day/week. However, if you do not earn points within all of your PACE classes due to poor behavior and/or lack of participation/completion of work you will not earn your points which will directly affect your grade and it will prohibit you from shopping in the school store with your points. \*If poor behavior persists, a phone call home and/or parent teacher conference will be held.

### **Late Assignments:**

#### **YOU ARE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE ALL ASSIGNMENTS ON TIME!!**

- In the event that you are absent or something personal arises that may cause you to turn in something late, *it is your responsibility to see me about making up work*. Past assignments will also be in the red folder on the wall.
- Assignments that were given during the first half of a quarter will not be accepted after progress reports!
- Assignments given during the second half of a quarter will not be accepted after the quarter ends!
- If a student has excessive lateness with turning in assignments a phone call home will be made and/or a parent teacher conference will be scheduled.
- 5 points will be deducted every day that a classwork assignment/project is late.
- Late homework assignments will only be given a maximum score of 50%.

### **Homework:**

- Homework will help further your understanding of concepts discussed in class. It will also help you develop self-discipline. The homework assignments will also allow parents to have an active role in their child's education by being able to evaluate their child's progress.
- Homework will be assigned every Monday and will be due every Thursday each week.
- If everyone in the class completes the homework assignments on time two weeks in a row, the class will receive a "Fun Friday", as a part of the PBIS incentive.
- If you as an individual complete your homework assignments on time for three weeks in a row in all of your PACE classes, you will receive a homework pass, exempting you for having to do homework the following week.
- Late homework assignments will only be given a maximum score of 50%.

**Supplies:** (*supplies will be provided for you, although extra pens/pencils/notebook will help*)

Organization is everything! During the school year, it is very important that you keep your work organized.

- One 3-Ring Binder
- One Folder: for classroom handouts
- Loose-leaf
- One subject spiral notebook
  - To serve as your writing journal and will always be left in class.
- Always come to class with pens and/or pencils

**Classroom Guidelines:**

Make our class a **safe** and **pleasant** environment by following these rules and guidelines:

- Remain in classroom at all times unless otherwise directed.
- Use appropriate language
- Respect yourself, peers, adults, and school property
- \*Electronics can only be used when permitted. Charging of electronics are is prohibited.

*\*If a student has an electronic device out they will be given one warning to put it away. If a student takes the device out a second time he/she will be asked to put the device on the teacher's desk. If the student refuses, he/she will have to meet with the school principal.*

These guidelines are very important as they are the foundation for a considerate, cohesive, and interconnected classroom environment. I am very confident that we will all learn a great deal from one another and have a wonderful year together!

Every student has a right to express their own ideas in their own unique way in the classroom without fear of being laughed at. This kind of diversity of thought benefits everyone in the class. Every student also has responsibility to show respect for other students and for the adults in the program.

It is also important that every student follow the rules, guidelines, and policies stated within Peekskill High School's student handbook.

### **Google Classroom:**

Google Classroom is an electronic learning platform used to simplify creating, distributing and grading assignments in a paperless way. We will be using Google Classroom to distribute and submit assignments throughout the school year.

In order to use Google Classroom you will need use your Google ID to log in and you will need your class code:

Ex: [firstname.lastname@peekskillschools.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@peekskillschools.org)

Your Google Classroom code is:

<b>ddrh9u</b>
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### **Remind App.**

The Remind app is a way for students/parents to communicate via text message with the ikeepsafe certification and confidentiality of not having knowledge of each other's cell phone numbers. The remind app will be used to remind students and parents of important information such as office hours, due dates, announcements etc. Students will be removed from usage of the remind app if they do not comply with the guidelines.

\*PARENTS; if you give consent for your child to communicate with the teacher via the Remind App please sign the bottom of the attached letter.

### **Contact Information:**

To reach me, I may be contacted at the high school at (914) 737-0201 or via e-mail at [magnello@peekskillschools.org](mailto:magnello@peekskillschools.org). You may also use the Remind app to contact me via text message.

Additionally, to stay up-to-date on classroom projects/assignments/test/quizzes, please visit my teacher webpage located under the "teacher pages" tab on the high school's homepage. (<http://peekskillcsd.org//Domain/276>) If extra help is needed I am also available during call back (2:47-3:00) every Monday – Thursday.

**Classroom Contract:**

This course description is to be thoroughly read and signed by the student and their parent/permanent guardian. This document must be kept with the student for the duration of this 2019 - 2020 academic school year.

I have read and fully understand the guidelines and expectations outlined on pages 1 – 6

Student Name (printed):

Signature:

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Parent/Guardian Name (printed):

Parent/Guardian Signature:

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\*Please also provide me with up-to-date contact information:

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*\*Note: Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.*