

Dear Parents and Students,

9th Grade English traces global history, society, and culture through the lens of literature. The course will be a rich, engaging, and thought-provoking experience to help students become better readers, writers, listeners, speakers, critical thinkers, and members of society. Our philosophy as teachers is to equip students with transferable skills that will actually help them in real life. Ten years from now, it will not matter if they can remember the cast of *The Odyssey* or the plot of *Romeo and Juliet*. What will matter is their ability to think critically and creatively, respond to texts and media, communicate effectively with other humans, understand different perspectives, and use the power of literacy to change their life and this crazy world for the better.

Supplies

For this course you (your student) will need:

- 1 Composition Notebook - 80 sheets - college ruled - 9.75 x 7.5 inches. (Typically \$.50)
- 1 Folder or Binder to hold handouts and information
- Your school laptop (fully charged or with a power cord)
- Writing utensil

Colorado State Standards: English Language Arts

1. Oral Expression and Listening
2. Reading for All Purposes
3. Writing and Composition
4. Research and Reasoning

What will we read/do?

Throughout the year, we will read, write, speak, listen, and research. Some of the things that we will be reading and learning about include (but are not limited to):

- What it takes to “survive”
- The Civil Rights era (the power of words)
- *Romeo and Juliet* (fate & destiny)
- *The Odyssey* (journey vs. destination)
- Post apocalyptic literature (imagining the future)

How is 9th grade English different from 8th grade English?

While the basic skills you learn will be similar, more will be expected of you at the high school level. You will be required to read things on your own at times and develop a deep understanding of literature. You will be writing and revising often. You are expected to be relatively self-directed at times and take your class work and class time seriously. While we will be here to help you succeed, we want to push you to be the best students and thinkers you can be. We look forward to all you will contribute!