**Course Syllabus**

**English Language Arts 9**

**Mrs. Osmak**

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**EHS A-104**

**Course Description:**

This course will explore introductory skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the high school level. A comprehensive reading list will include selections of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. Students will read both independently and with the class. Students will complete writing assignments with a focus on grammar, style, and conventions. There will be embedded vocabulary study and opportunities for collaborative learning. Student assessments will be designed to build to the Keystone Literature exam which is administered in May of sophomore year.

**Resources:**

Students will primarily use the *HMH into Literature: Grade 9* workbook. I will have a designated shelf in the classroom for each block to keep workbooks in the room. Additional materials and assignments will be posted via Schoology.

**Unit Topics:**

* Unit 2: Breaking through Barriers
* Unit 3: Crime Scenes
* Unit 4: Love and Loss
* Unit 5: Freedom at All Costs

**Classroom Expectations:**

Students will be expected to keep a folder with quarterly work. I have hanging folders provided in classroom bins for each student to utilize. It is the student’s responsibility to make up missing work due to absence during extra help time on Tuesdays each week. Students can also message me through Schoology or email at any time with questions. Bi-weekly bell ringer notebook checks will be conducted and will count towards the student’s grade. All students are expected to adhere to the Student Handbook at all times. Students should not be on chrome books or personal devices unless instructed by the teacher.

**PBIS**:

Erie High School utilizes PBIS Rewards as a school wide system for positive behavior support. Students will have the opportunity to earn up to 9 points per class by following BR3 - Be Respectful, Responsible, and Resilient.

**Communication:**

Students are responsible for checking their email on a regular basis. I will also use Parent Square to update families periodically each quarter or on an as needed basis.

**Classroom Procedures:**

Classes will include the following:

* Daily bell ringers
* Whole group instruction
* Independent reading
* Small group assignments
* Writing projects

**Grading Policy:**

Grades will be updated every Friday on Infinite Campus. The following will be included:

* Homework: Homework can not be weighed more than 10% of the students grade. Homework is designed to provide practice and reinforce skills learned in class. It will be graded for effort, completion, and timeliness rather than accuracy.
* Classwork and Participation: Students are expected to engage actively in class discussions, group work, and activities. This includes but is not limited to preparation, collaboration, and respectful contributions.
* Quizzes and Formative Assessments: Frequent checks for understanding in the form of quizzes, daily bell ringers, quick projects, exit tickets, and others are used to monitor student progress.
* Tests, Major Projects, and Major Assessments: These are the best opportunities for students to demonstrate mastery of the material. Projects may be individual or group-based. These opportunities may include and are not limited to presentations, essays, or creative work.
* Growth and Improvement: Effort, perseverance, and demonstrated improvement over time will be considered when determining final grades.

**Additional Notes:**

Students will have 1 week after the due date to turn in late work, this will be for partial credit unless otherwise arranged.

Students with excused absences are responsible for checking in and completing missed work. Information can be found on Schoology or by checking with the teacher via email or extra help time.

In order to achieve growth in their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills, students should be in class on time and for the duration of the block. This includes being engaged and paying attention!

*I am excited for the new year and I hope you are as well!*