**English I ACE** **Mrs. Maples**

**Course Syllabus**

Welcome to Oak Hills High School. I am looking forward to a productive year with you as you transition into high school academics.

**Course Description:** ACE English I is designed to strengthen reading, writing, listening, critical thinking and speaking skills. Students will strengthen their understanding of the elements of fiction through readings in drama, poetry and the novel. This course includes college preparatory language arts skills in a standards based curriculum. Students will read and analyze both informational and literary texts. Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate themes across genres. Students will write coherent and focused essays to convey a well defined perspective and tightly reasoned argument, demonstrating awareness of audience and purpose. Emphasis will be on accelerated critical study of literary texts and sophisticated academic writing, preparing students for standardized exams and Advanced Placement courses.

Thematically, this year will focus on social and literary patterns and cycles. As we examine universal human experiences, we will consider how these ideas may guide personal growth. Issues such as independence, responsibility, family, and identity will be explored. We will utilize a variety of reading materials in order to achieve our goals. These materials will include, but are not limited to: Homer’s *The Odyssey*, Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*, Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird,* Hosseini’s *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, our literature textbook, supplemental mythology, short stories, non-fiction pieces, and poetry. Changes and/or additions may occur due to text availability, however you will be informed of these changes as soon as possible, should they occur. Purchasing your own copies of the required texts is highly encouraged, as we will often be annotating in one form or another.

On a side note, certain works of literature contain material that is for mature readers. Such works are assigned because the overall message of the text is valuable; the benefits of the text outweigh the reasons to not include it in the curriculum. While all reading selections are approved by the California Department of Education Recommended Reading List, it is suggested that parents review the annotations on the CDE website. If you have any concerns regarding the reading material, please inform me as soon as possible so your student can be given an alternate reading assignment.

http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/rl/

**Texts:** *SpringBoard* is our provided textbook. Students will also be responsible for supplementary novels, readings, and other materials which will be issued as they are studied in this course.

**Materials Required:**

Students are expected to report to class daily, on time, and with the proper materials. These materials include:

* Loose leaf paper
* Pen, DARK BLUE OR BLACK INK ONLY
* Highlighters
* A system for storing assignments until the end of the semester
* Red pens (for peer editing/grading only)
* Chromebook (Note: It is expected that you come to class DAILY with your charged Chromebook. It will be used regularly in this class. Not having your Chromebook daily may result in point deductions.)

**Important Points/Procedures**

* In this classroom, respecting each other is a requirement. We must all respect each other in order to learn and grow.
* Students are required to type all formal papers and assignments, and submit electronic copies to turnitin.com. A paper copy is also required for most assignments.
* All assignments are to be typed, using MLA heading, correct MLA citations, and a Works Cited page, unless otherwise instructed.
* No name papers will receive zero credit.
* Students must keep all graded assignments and tests until the end of each semester.
* If students do not complete assignments, throughout the semester, it will not be possible to wait until the days prior to the end of the grading period to turn in missed work. The work will not be accepted. Put effort in all year long to achieve your desired results.
* Cell phones should be off and out of sight unless you have asked for permission to use it for a special circumstance. If your cell phone is out, and you have not asked for permission the consequences are as follows:
  + Warning
  + Confiscation- Returned at the end of class.
  + Confiscation- You may pick up your device from the discipline office.
* If you have gone through all 3 steps of disciplinary action, you will receive a referral.
* It is encouraged that grades are viewed on Infinite Campus frequently, so that both parents and students are aware of the progress being made.
* The Remind system will be used occasionally. You may also use it to contact me outside of class time, if necessary.

**Absences and Late Work**

* In the event that a student is absent, it is the responsibility of the student to find out what he/she missed. The best way to get your work is to send me an email.
* If a student is absent on the due date of any major assignment/project, the student is expected to turn it in on **the day of** his/her return. The absence must be excused. (This does not apply for extracurricular absences. See below.)
* “I was absent that day” is not a valid excuse for missing work.
* Students are given one day to make up assignments for every day of an EXCUSED ABSENCE (This does not include extracurricular absences. See below.)
* If a student is out of class for discipline purposes (tardy sweep, home suspension, etc.) make up work will not be given or accepted.
* If an assignment is not turned in because a student just didn’t do it, it will not be accepted late.
* Make-up test days are always **Wednesdays during lunch**. If you miss a test or quiz, you may make it up the next Wednesday you are at school. If you do not make it up on Wednesday, you will not receive credit for that test/quiz.
* \*If you are participating in any extracurricular programs that will require absence from my class (sports, clubs, ASB, AVID, etc.) your late work will not be accepted if you are not in class. It is your responsibility to turn your work in ahead of time, or on the due date. Either put work in my mailbox, or drop it off before you leave for your extracurricular obligation. Tests must also be taken ahead of time if you know you will be out on a certain day.

**Academic Dishonesty**

* Cheating of **any kind** will not be tolerated. Refer to the OHHS academic integrity policy for specific information regarding cheating and the consequences that follow any type of academic dishonesty.

**Grading Breakdown**

Classwork/Homework: 30%

Essays/Tests/Quizzes/Projects: 50%

Participation: 20%

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at: christina.maples@hesperiausd.org, or at

760-244-2283, ext. 4594. E-mail is the best way to contact me.

**Students: Please complete the form on Google Classroom after reading the entire syllabus.**

**Parents: Please complete the form on my website. You can access this through your student’s Google Classroom screen, or through the Oak Hills High School website.**