

Language Arts I-Honors: Course Content and Expectations

2018-2019

Ms. McLeish

(714)996-4970 ext. 10408

kmcleish@pylusd.org



Course Description and Objectives

Language Arts I-Honors is a one-year college-preparatory course that provides an in-depth study of language skills, sentence development, paragraph development and essay writing. Students will read, interpret and analyze selections in the genres of nonfiction, short story, epic, drama, poetry, and the novel.

Behavior Expectations

All students will:

1. Be courteous and respectful to all.
2. Come to class on time prepared to participate as an active learner.
3. Be seated and ready to begin *before* the bell rings.
4. Have all smartphones/cell-phones, I-pods, video game devices, and other electronic devices turned off prior to entering the classroom. All of the above electronic devices *may not be visible* until students exit the classroom; however, students may use specific electronic devices or programs *with permission* for educational purposes only (ie. Google Classroom, Chromebooks, etcetera).
5. Use technology appropriately.
6. Complete all assignments on time.
7. Use academic and appropriate language in class.
8. Check posted grades on Aeries regularly.
9. Follow all rules and expectations included in the VHS handbook.
10. Follow all established classroom routines and procedures reviewed in class.

CLASSROOM RULES & CONSEQUENCES (HONORS CLASS)

Students are expected to adhere to all school policies and procedures, which will be strictly enforced. Classroom rules are designed to create a positive learning environment for all students. In an honors level class, it is expected that all students be well-behaved, assertive, and self-disciplined. Failure to do so may jeopardize a student's privilege to remain in an honors level class.

Test Taking in Class:

Do not violate the testing environment. This can include, but is not limited to the following:

1. **Having your phone out and visible for any reason, including checking the time.**
2. **Communicating with anyone in class verbally or nonverbally.**
3. **Using unauthorized study materials during a test.**

If you have questions about what is permissible, please see me for specifics.

Possible Consequences

1. Verbal Warning
2. Seat Changes
3. Conference
4. Detention
5. Parent Contact
6. Referral
7. Removal from Class

In addition, tardies will be handled according to the VHS Student Handbook policy and students who are not on-time may be subject to the following:

Tardies 1-5: Handled by teacher/Parent contact/ Teacher assigned detention

*****Please note: Tardies 1-2= warning / Tardies 3-5=detentions and parent contacted**

Tardy 6: Referral to Attendance Director/ Parent contact/ Saturday School

Tardy 7: Referral to Attendance Director/ Parent contact /Detention/ Saturday School/ In-House Suspension

Tardy 8: Referral to Attendance Director/ Detention/ Saturday School/ Parent conference/ Behavior Contract

Tardy 9: Referral to A.P. of Student Services/ Loss of student privileges

Grades

Grades are based on written assignments including major projects, essays, literature tests, grammar tests, vocabulary quizzes, oral presentations, and the final exam. Assignments are weighted as follows:

Curriculum Component	Percentage of Overall Grade	Curriculum Component	Percentage of Overall Grade
Writing <input type="checkbox"/> Essays <input type="checkbox"/> One pagers	30%	Participation <input type="checkbox"/> Socratic Seminars <input type="checkbox"/> Literature Circles <input type="checkbox"/> Class Discussions <input type="checkbox"/> Presentations	15%
Classwork/Homework <input type="checkbox"/> Literary Tasks <input type="checkbox"/> Conventions <input type="checkbox"/> Vocabulary/Roots	25%	Assessments <input type="checkbox"/> Tests <input type="checkbox"/> Quizzes <input type="checkbox"/> Projects	30%

A weighted grading system requires students to perform well across all categories and allows me to easily pinpoint areas where a student should work harder or may need extra help. Students should know in advance that opportunities for extra credit points are rare. Students, however, can and should check their academic progress regularly. Grades are updated approximately every two weeks.

Course Content: Literature

Many of the short story selections will be located within the StudySync (McGraw Hill) curriculum assigned for this course. In addition, time permitting, the following texts will be possible options for this course:

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

The Odyssey by Homer

In addition, we will read a variety of non-fiction texts including newspaper articles, biographies, research, etcetera. We may also view scenes from films—that are course relevant—in order to enhance the literature we read. Annotations will be required for any novel assigned for this course. If you choose to purchase a copy of the novel as they are assigned, (not all novels listed may be assigned depending on time), then students may write notes in the novel directly. If not, students may use post-it notes to write annotations in novels that are borrowed from the library. The post-it notes will have to be provided by the student.

Course Content: Class work and Homework

HOMEWORK –As HONOR STUDENTS, YOU ARE EXPECTED TO TURN IN ALL HOMEWORK ON TIME.

Homework, or individual time spent studying outside of class, is an essential part of the learning process. Students should expect to have homework five nights a week (including Sunday night). In addition, long-term projects are often assigned that require students to work independently and outside of class over a two to four-week time period. Updates to the agenda are written on the board each day. **Homework will be accepted up to one day late for 50% credit. Students who do not have homework ready when it is due will be asked to leave the class during the discussion of the assignment and will not receive participation points for that activity.**

ABSENCES AND MAKE-UP WORK

Students with an excused absence are given one day for each day they are absent to make up class/homework and one week to make up tests. Students with unexcused absences, or who fail to make up their work according to the above timeframes, will receive a zero. If students are absent, it is their responsibility to check Google Classroom BEFORE returning to class and also check in with the teacher regarding missed work or tests BEFORE CLASS BEGINS. All make-up tests are given either before or after school and must be scheduled in advance with the teacher. Students will have one week to make up any missed tests due to an absence. If tests are not made up within one week, they are an automatic zero.

Necessary Supplies

It is of the utmost importance that you come to class ready to participate as an active learner. In order to do this, you must bring the following supplies to class on a daily basis:

- 3-ring binder with a section for Language Arts 1-Honors
- Lined notebook paper
- Pencils and erasers
- Pens (blue or black ink only)
- Highlighters in three different colors for annotating texts
- Flashcards (any size, lined or unlined is acceptable)
- Assigned novels, reading assignments, handouts, post-it notes, etc.

Failure to do this will result in disciplinary action and the loss of participation points.

Dear Parents/Guardians, and Family Members,

Hello and welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! I have sent home the course syllabus with your student, and I would greatly appreciate it if you could look it over and review the course policies and important information that it covers. After you have reviewed the syllabus, please sign the attached contact information page to indicate that you understand and agree to the policies mentioned within the syllabus. **Please have your student return the signed copy of the syllabus and the signed film viewing policy permission slip (on the last page) by this Thursday, the 30th of August.**

The best way to contact me is through e-mail at the address listed below. Please feel free to e-mail me with any questions you might have about the class. I try my best to respond within 24 hours. Moreover, I have a class website available on the staff page at vhstigers.org that lists important updates. Students will also receive a code to use the Remind App that will allow students to receive updates directly through the App and they will also receive a specific classroom code to access Google Classroom.

I look forward to meeting you at *Back-to-School Night* on Wednesday, the 12th of September and I am looking forward to working with you to help your student succeed this year in Language Arts 1-Honors! Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Ms. McLeish

kmcleish@pylusd.org

(714) 996-4970 ext. 10408