

9th/10th English With Support Syllabus

2021 - 2022

Denise Briggs Potter
dbriggspotter@bisd303.org

206 855 0543

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description: This course focuses on building the core language arts skills of reading, writing, oral communication, and listening. Students will read and analyze a variety of texts in order to better appreciate the world they live in and understand their place in it. Students will read and write often, from informal journal responses to longer creative pieces to multi-paragraph essays. Students will also expand their vocabulary and improve their use of grammar and punctuation.

While reading and writing are daily activities, the primary focus of the class will be:

1. explore various genres of literature (short stories, plays, poems, essays, and novels) in order to understand and analyze them.
2. examine both the content and text structures of fiction and nonfiction in order to confidently respond to the reading.
3. practice clear and effective writing, varying style depending on purpose and audience.
4. gain confidence in their writing and speaking skills.
5. learn how to develop a topic in their writing and maintain consistent focus.
6. learn vocabulary, grammar, and mechanics as features of quality writing.
7. learn how to assess their own strengths and weaknesses in reading, writing, oral communication, listening, and critical thinking.

Academic Policies and Procedures

Academic Integrity (from the *BHS Student Handbook*): Honesty is a compelling principle by which we operate all aspects of student and school life. Academic honesty is highly valued at BHS. Students should not cheat or plagiarize, nor should they tolerate such among fellow students. Students do not receive credit for work that is not their own. Cheating is defined as an attempt to earn credit or receive a grade for coursework in a manner other than defined as acceptable by the teacher. Plagiarism is the taking of language, ideas or thoughts from another person or resource without acknowledging the source. Students who use plagiarized papers or projects or are involved in any other form of cheating will be subject to reduction in grades and/or disciplinary action for a first offense. Because of the serious nature of academic honesty, violations of this code may result in loss of credit for the assignment with a recorded failing grade. It may also entail loss of credit for the course with a recorded failing grade, removal from the course with a failing grade, and/ or additional appropriate disciplinary action.

Grading:

Weighted Categories

Quizzes and Tests	25-35%
Formal writing assignments	30%
Projects	20%
Daily Work	10-15%
Professionalism	5-10%

Standard BHS Grade Scale

A	93-100%	C+	78-79%
A-	90-92%	C	73-77%
B+	87-89%	C-	70-72%
B	83-86%	D+	68-69%
B-	80-82%	D	60-67%
		F	0-59%

Late Work: Work is due at the beginning of the class period on the due date. However, if work is turned in late, please notify me immediately so that it can be added to Skyward. Late work will also reflect negatively on your professionalism grade. If you know you will be out of town or have extenuating circumstances, please make arrangements with me before the due date. In the case of an excused absence, all make-up work or tests should be completed within one week from the day(s) absent - not the day posted on Skyward. Students should be aware of what they have missed and should schedule make-up quizzes and tests as soon as possible.

Submitting Assignments: All assignments will be given and submitted in Google Classroom unless otherwise instructed. Some assignments will be on paper and collected in class. Journal work can be done through Google Classroom or in the hard copy journal that will be passed out to students.

Sensitive Materials (books, videos, movies) - One of the goals of this course is to expose students to a variety of perspectives and modes of expression. Thus, it is possible that students may find some books, videos, or movies objectionable. I encourage students to discuss with me the material they think may be objectionable; in extreme cases alternative assignments may be designed.

Communications of assignments and exams: All assignments will be posted in Google Classroom, and a weekly summary can be found on my Teacher Home Page.

Classroom Expectations

1. Most important: be present. Attendance is vital, since it allows me to assess your reading, journal annotations, and keeps you current on assignments, lectures, and instruction.
2. Please come prepared; bring materials: Chromebook, paper, writing utensil, water if you need it.
3. You are responsible for your role in the classroom community: add to discussion, listen to others respectfully, and do your part in group projects.
4. Show respect for yourself and others. Do your best work and encourage others to do the same.
5. Please do not distract yourself or others with cell phones or other electronic equipment. Cell phones can be put in the Phone Caddy at the beginning of class if you feel you can not keep your phone put away during class. If I see your phone, I will take it until the end of class.

I have read the 9th English Fall 2018-2019 course syllabus:

_____ (student signature)

_____ student name (printed)

_____ (parent signature)

_____ parent name (printed)

Hello, parents of 9th and 10th graders! I hope your family had a great summer. I look forward to meeting you at the Fall Open House. In the meantime, here are some great ways to help your student this semester:

- Encourage your student to arrive to class on time every class period. 1st period is early for some students. Please encourage your student to get a good night's sleep and eat breakfast before class.
- Practice vocabulary words and definitions with your student when there is an upcoming quiz.
- Ask your student what they are reading or writing in class. Encourage them to show you their writing and offer constructive feedback.
- If your son or daughter struggles with reading, audiobooks are very helpful. Check out the BHS Library, King County Library, Kitsap Library, Amazon, or other online sources, such as Audible.com; Kindles are also extremely helpful for struggling readers because they allow you to enlarge text and track words more easily;
- Encourage reading for pleasure.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Email is the best way to contact me as I can respond to emails in the course of a school day, and I can only make phone calls during those few minutes when students are not in my classroom.

Best,

Denise Briggs Potter