

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is designed to support students in exceeding the [TN ELA Standards](#) and preparing for future advanced coursework as outlined in the Chester County Board of Education [policy](#) for honors courses as follows:

Honors courses will substantially exceed the content standards, learning expectations, and performance indicators approved by the State Board of Education. Teachers of honors courses will model instructional approaches that facilitate maximum interchange of ideas among students: independent study, self-directed research and learning, and appropriate use of technology. All honors courses must include multiple assessments exemplifying coursework (such as short answer, constructed-response prompts, performance-based tasks, open-ended questions, essays, original or creative interpretations, authentic products, portfolios, and analytical writing). Additionally, an honors course shall also include a minimum of five (5) of the following components:

- Extended reading assignments that connect with the specified curriculum.
- Research-based writing assignments that address and extend the course curriculum.
- Projects that apply course curriculum to relevant or real-world situations. These may include oral presentations, power point, or other modes of sharing findings. Connection of the project to the community is encouraged.
- Open-ended investigations in which the student selects the questions and designs the research.
- Writing assignments that demonstrate a variety of modes, purposes, and styles.
- Examples of mode include narrative, descriptive, persuasive, expository, and expressive.
- Examples of purpose include to inform, entertain, and persuade.
- Examples of style include formal, informal, literary, analytical, and technical
- Integration of appropriate technology into the course of study
- Deeper exploration of the culture, values, and history of the discipline.
- Extensive opportunities for problem solving experiences through imagination, critical analysis, and application.
- Job shadowing experiences with presentations which connect class study to the world of work.

GRADING

TESTS & ESSAYS: **50%**

QUIZZES: **30%**

DAILY WORK: **20%**

Grades will be posted in Synergy (and Google Classroom when applicable) as soon as they are completed. Students should check these apps often for their most current grades. Three points will be added to the final average at the end of each nine weeks.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Each student will need pencils and/or pens, a three-ring notebook with 8 tab dividers, and colored highlighters. If you need assistance in obtaining these materials, please let Mrs. Skaggs know.



CLASS EXPECTATIONS

This classroom is not governed by rules. Instead, we operate on the basis of two key concepts: **RESPECT** and **RESPONSIBILITY**. Everyone in the classroom—including both students and teacher—should demonstrate these characteristics at all times.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO CHECK THE FOLLOWING EVERY DAY:



It is **your responsibility** to check Google Classroom each day in order to stay informed about assignments and important announcements. Also, make sure that notifications are on for your email and Remind as I will use these to contact you outside of the classroom. There is no excuse for not knowing about a deadline, opportunity, or announcement.

DEVICE POLICY

All phones must be turned in to the phone zone at the beginning of class. A charging station is provided for you to charge your phone during class, but you must bring your own charger. Your device(s) will remain safely in the phone zone until the bell rings. You may NOT get your device out of the phone zone without permission from Mrs. Skaggs.



There will be times when you will be allowed to use your phone during class for different activities. These times will be explicitly announced by Mrs. Skaggs for all students to hear.

FOOD AND DRINKS



Per school policy, "Food and drinks are not allowed in any classroom except with prior permission from the principal with the exception of bottled water if the teacher specifically allows the practice in the specific classroom." Please **do not bring any food or drink other than water into my classroom**. Exceptions to this policy can be made for classroom celebrations and will be announced by Mrs. Skaggs.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students are expected to do their own work with no exceptions. When you consult sources of information for assignments, you must cite them using MLA format. **Any information that comes from an outside source, whether in part or in whole, paraphrased or quoted, must be attributed to that source.** Work that is done in whole or in part by another individual or AI application will result in the grade of zero.



DAILY • • • ROUTINE

1. Arrive **on time** to class with all necessary materials.
2. Put your devices away **immediately** (you may charge your phone in the phone zone).
3. Check the Great Start instructions and begin work immediately.

LEAVING THE ROOM

It is my job to provide a safe and secure environment for your learning. I cannot keep you safe and secure if you are not with me when you are supposed to be there. As a result, *students will not be allowed to leave class unless they are called by the office or have a dire emergency (visibly ill)*. In such cases, you must sign out on the computer by the door before leaving and carry the hall pass provided by Mrs. Skaggs.

MAKE UP WORK • • •

If you miss class due to absence, field trip, or any other reason, it is your responsibility to find out about and make up your missed work in a timely manner. Check Google Classroom first for work that you missed and then verify with Mrs. Skaggs as needed.

CONTACT

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