Deer Valley Unified School District

Mr. Payne

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English Language Arts 1-2

Course Description:
This course uses a thematic approach to world literature drawing from a wide variety of multicultural selections. Subject matter includes both traditional classics and contemporary authors. Students will be expected to read at least two examples of classical literature each semester from a recommended reading list. Throughout the course, students will be provided with a myriad of opportunities to understand, evaluate, and clearly communicate ideas through reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This course offers expanded opportunities to use 21st century skills to enhance the learning experience and enhance course themes. This course is aligned with Arizona College and Career Ready Standards and/or national content standards and supports school-wide efforts to increase student achievement.

Course Objectives:
By the time the student completes this course of study, the student will know or be able to:

- ☐ Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- ☐ Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.
- ☐ Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
- ☐ Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

Major Units Fall Semester: *To Kill a Mockingbird, The Odyssey*, Informative/Explanatory Reading and Writing

Major Units Spring Semester: *The Glass Castle, Romeo and Juliet,* Argumentative Reading and Writing

*Note: If there is a novel that you prefer your child not read, please indicate this on the novel communication form, so that an alternate unit can be provided.

Classroom Rules and Consequences:
1. Be respectful to your teacher, your peers, your school, and yourself. Time is invaluable.
2. Put your phone and other technology away out of sight during instruction time.
3. Enjoy food and drinks in designated areas such as the cafeteria.
4. Be prepared for class everyday with the materials outlined on this syllabus.
5. Be in your seat and begin your bell work before the bell rings.
6. Mature and appropriate behavior will be displayed in and around the classroom.

Grade Book Weighting: (District Wide) 80% Assessment 20% Classwork

Grading Scale 100% - 90%, 89% - 80%, 79% - 70%, 69% - 60%. 59% - 0%

Homework Policy: Coursework includes work completed in class and independent work assigned to be completed at home. It is expected that coursework will be completed during class unless otherwise indicated by the teacher. Students are expected to submit all assignments by the published due date and time. Per district policy, no extra credit will be offered.

The Deer Valley Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. For any inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies contact the Superintendent's Department, 20402 N. 15th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85027. 623.445.5000.

Report Cards
In an effort to conserve resources and harness the capacity of our electronic grade reporting program (PowerSchool) district schools will no longer print hard copies of report cards unless requested by individual parents. To request a hard copy of your student's report card, please contact the front office at 623-376-3000. To receive your PowerSchool login, please stop into the office with a valid photo ID.

Power School Online Access:
Grades and attendance may be accessed 24 hours a day online with your Power School access code. Access codes are available in the Counseling Office or Front Desk Monday – Friday 7:00 AM– 3:30 PM. You may check student progress regularly on the PowerSchool site using the same login for one or more students. For Mountain Ridge parents/guardians without home computer access, a computer with guest log-in capability is available in the Counseling Conference Room.

Academic Assistance/Office Hours:
In addition to the Academic Prep times built into our schedule each week, additional assistance/tutoring is provided on a weekly basis both by MRHS and individually by instructors. These office hours will be posted in my classroom, website, and/or Canvas at the start of each week. I will demonstrate to the students how to find my availability each week.

Make-up Policy:

Absences: After an absence**,** a student has one school day for each day missed to make up work/tests, regardless of the number of days absent. If many days were missed, please schedule an appointment with me to formulate a plan for the completion of make-up work. Make-up work for extended absences (over 3 days) may be requested through the Counseling Office and picked up there.

Late Assignments Policy:
In order for **Late Work** to be accepted, students must meet the following parameters:

- Assignment is not due within the class period
- Assignment is not a timed activity (such as a Quick-Write Essay)
- Assignment is not a Long-Term assignment (over multiple weeks)
- Assignment is turned in by the end of the instructional unit.

Classwork Policy: In-class assignments may be due by the end of the class period. Class time will be provided.

Assessment Category Only:

Students will complete various assessments evaluating learning targets at the discretion of the teacher.

If re-assessment is approved, the student will complete another assessment addressing the same learning targets. The assessment to be retaken may be in the same format or a different format and will be at the same difficulty level. The higher of the two scores will be entered in the gradebook.

To earn a retake opportunity, a student must complete all of the following:

- Consult with the teacher within 5 school days of the assessment score being posted.
- Teacher and student create a reassessment plan, if required by the teacher
- The reassessment plan may include all formative coursework related to the content/skill assessed

AI Statement

In Deer Valley Unified School District, we are committed to providing our students with the best possible education while ensuring their safety, privacy, and well-being. As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance learning experiences, we may incorporate the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the classroom for students. However, it is important to approach this technology with caution and adhere to responsible data privacy practices.

DVUSD has determined that the use of Large Language Models (LLMs), such as ChatGPT, is prohibited unless clearly specified by your teacher. Specific guidelines will be provided in the assignment details. If you are unsure if the tool or website you are using is an LLM or if it is permitted on a specific assignment, please contact your teacher before submitting your work.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism and/or cheating of any kind will not be tolerated and the student(s) will receive an automatic zero for the work, a call home, and be written up for the act of academic dishonesty. This is your warning. It should also be noted that you CANNOT use or submit any work that you may or may not have used for a previous class or course.

Daily Device Use (iPads)

Students should come to school with their iPads charged and ready to use in each class every day. Devices may not be used to record or take photos of other people without their consent. Consequences for classroom disruptions and misuse of devices will follow a progressive discipline model, beginning with a phone call home and progressing to office referrals for repeated or more serious offenses. See the Student Rights and Responsibilities consequence chart in the handbook for more specific descriptions of infractions and consequences.

Recommended Supplies for this Course:

1. A fully charged DVUSD-issued iPad and iPad charger.
2. Writing utensils and paper for taking notes and/or completing assignments that are not on Canvas.
3. At least 3 different colored highlighters.
4. A pocket folder for loose papers.
5. Downloaded apps: Notability, Chrome, Power Schools, Canvas
6. Outside reading materials as specified in class.