

# Mr. Dunne - Honors English 9 - room 306

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## WELCOME

Welcome to English 9 and welcome to Boyertown Area Senior High (BASH)! As a teacher adapting plans and lessons for online instruction and as ninth grade students in a new school and virtual setting, we are essentially starting on common ground. Our new environment provides us with a great opportunity to learn from each other while we start a new journey. Together, we will be exploring and learning the three core elements of English/Language arts: reading, writing, and speaking. My hope is to create a classroom where students are comfortable sharing their thoughts while we explore and analyze powerful ideas from literary works that have had a profound impact on the world.

## CLASS DESCRIPTION

The ninth grade Honors curriculum analyzes classical literature as well as modern works. Students in this course will be challenged by delving deeper into the works studied and developing their thinking and writing skills at a higher level. Students will develop their communication and thinking skills through instructions in the writing process, individual and collaborative projects, presentations independent reading and speaking practices. Traditional grammar, mechanics, and usage skills are continued as part of the writing process.

## SKILLS

The collective goal is for students to look deeper into their reading, improve grammar skills, develop their writing, and strengthen their thinking. While doing this, we will read with an investigative eye, trying to find deeper meanings from texts. Students in all English classes will read extensively, including the classic American novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Shakespeare's tragic play *Romeo and Juliet*, a variety of additional pieces (many from the textbook *The Language of Literature*), and we will also study *Life of Pi*, an award-winning novel by Yann Martel. Throughout the year, students will write in response to readings, occasionally mimicking the style of established writers or combining it with their own in order to expand their control over the resources of language. We will also work on vocabulary and grammar skills.

## UNITS OF STUDY

- Various writing units
- Various short stories
- *Romeo and Juliet*
- *Life of Pi*
- *To Kill a Mockingbird*

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Writing utensils: pens, pencils, highlighters
- Writer's notebook
- Handout folder
- A 1" or 1 ½" three ring binder
- Headphones

## STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to come to class prepared and put forth maximum effort into assignments, participation and classroom/online discussion. All final products are expected to be finished in the best possible terms. Students are expected to check Google Classroom everyday and review the daily slideshows for grammar notes, a lesson review, and for important due dates.

Students are expected to follow BASD's cell phone policy at all times. Student cell phones and other electronic devices are expected to be put away and put on silent upon entering class. Students are expected to refrain from texting, snapchatting, instagraming, facebooking, tweeting, watching videos and playing games during class. The first violation of our cell phone policy will result in a verbal warning. All other infractions could result in further discipline from teacher and/or administration. Please reference the Student Handbook for additional information about Cell Phones and Electronic Devices .

Students are expected to maintain a clean and orderly classroom and learning environment. Students are expected to demonstrate respect and consideration for self, peers, teachers, administration, all faculty and all staff members at BASH, and Boyertown Area School District Property.

## WHAT CAN STUDENTS EXPECT FROM ME?

- I will bring energy and enthusiasm to our classroom and provide a positive learning environment.
- I will treat you fairly and be honest with you.
- I care about who you are inside and outside of the classroom.
- I will challenge you to be a better student and person.
- I will post in Google Classroom every day and make myself available as much as possible.

## **HOMEWORK/GRADING**

The quarterly grade will be calculated by dividing the total points earned by the total points possible. The final exam will count for 10% of the student's final grade, and each of the four marking period grades will make up the remaining percentage. As of now, students will not be taking midterm exams. Students and parents are encouraged to keep track of a student's grade on Infinite Campus and check Google Classroom daily. Grades will be updated weekly. We will be doing most of the work in the classroom, however, homework will be necessary for Honors English 9. Most homework is assigned to practice concepts, prepare for quizzes/tests/discussions, build reading stamina, and to increase student vocabulary through Membean. Students will be required to complete three, 15 minute Membean sessions a week (45 minutes total). Students are expected to use the daily planner to record assignments and test dates. If a student misses a graded assignment, they may always complete the assignment within a fair and reasonable amount of time for credit. It is the responsibility of each student to make sure assignments are turned in on time. Assignments are due at the *beginning* of class on the day they are due or turned in online (refer to individual assignment requirements). Please be sure to pay attention to the due dates announced in class and posted on Google classroom.

### **Letter Grade and Quality Points**

93	-	100	=	A	=	4.00
90	-	92	=	A-	=	3.67
87	-	89	=	B+	=	3.33
83	-	86	=	B	=	3.00
80	-	82	=	B-	=	2.67
77	-	79	=	C+	=	2.33
73	-	76	=	C	=	2.00
70	-	72	=	C-	=	1.67
67	-	69	=	D+	=	1.33
63	-	66	=	D	=	1.00
60	-	62	=	D-	=	0.67

\*A teacher may designate a student's superior performance using A+ (= 4.0).

\*\* Mid-term and final exam requirements may change based on the school year; administration will make determinations and all students will be notified appropriately.

## **LATE WORK**

Any essay/project/major assignments not turned in at the beginning of the class but on the same day will receive a 5% grade reduction. Each day the essay/project is late will result in a 10% grade reduction (for example, three days late means a 30% grade reduction). After ten days late, credit can no longer be earned on the essay.

## **ABSENCES**

A student who is excused from school attendance shall have the equivalent/fair/reasonable opportunity to make up any test, quiz, or work he/she missed during an excused absence. Upon return from absence, students should check with Mr. Dunne to pick up or discuss any work missed. All work assigned PRIOR to the student's absence is due upon the student's return to class. Now more than ever, it is strongly recommended that students check Google Classroom while absent.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any work submitted by the student shall be their own. Work taken from others will be deemed as unacceptable. Any doubts will initiate the completion of an alternative assignment or a zero on the required effort, depending on the severity of the infraction. There are several online platforms that are utilized to check student writing for plagiarism. All formal essays must be submitted to Google Classroom in order to be eligible for grading. Please refer to the student handbook found on the district website for more information and clarification.

**I am looking forward to an enjoyable school year and for the opportunity to work with you. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.**

**Sincerely,**

**Brendan Dunne**