Course Outline

*The purpose of the Grade Nine Block scheduling is to create a smooth transition from elementary to high school. The intent of this program is to have students feel comfortable and connected in their new school community. The structure will create possibilities for academic achievement and social support.*

**THEMES**

1. All That I Am: The Search for Self
2. Conflicts, Challenges, Issues, and Choices: Doing the Right Thing

To examine and analyze each of these themes, a variety of selections will be studied in each of the following genres: short stories, poetry, essays, novels, plays, multimedia sources, and other educational resources.

 **DELIVERY**

English Language Arts A9AP builds lifelong learners, a sense of self, a sense of community and engaged citizens through the development of thinking, identity, interdependence, literacies and social responsibility. The aims and goals of the program are to comprehend and respond, compose and create, and assess and reflect. Each thematic unit requires critical and creative thinking in regard to impressions, analysis, and conclusions about the literature and concepts that are examined. Literature is used as a *vehicle* to enhance writing, reading, and communication skills; most importantly, it serves to be a source of entertainment. There will be many opportunities to develop and enhance skills that will be required later in a student’s high school career and life after high school.

**EVALUATION SCHEME**

Course Work 75 % *This includes assignments, quizzes, projects and exams.*

Bell Work 10 % *This is short, daily work (usually a topical item or grammar).*

Final Exam 15 % *This is a comprehensive final assessment on January 26.*

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Grade Nine Retreat September 8, 2015
Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences October 29, 2015

**COMMON ATTENDANCE PRACTICE**

Students *must*attend a minimum of 85% of classes. 15 missed classes – excused or unexcused – maximum in any class. Exceeding 15 results in being dismissed from the class.

Students *must* be punctual for a minimum of 85% of classes. 15 tardy classes – excused or unexcused - maximum in any class. Exceeding 15 results in being dismissed from the class.

Absences and tardiness will be carried forward if students transfer to another school in our school division within a semester.

Students failing classes or dismissed from classes will not have an option of repeating the classes in semester two of that academic year.

Extenuating circumstances – Students who are absent or late in excess of 15 classes who have special circumstances can apply for exemption. For absences or lates that are planned this application must occur in advance of the event. In unforeseen circumstances, appeals must be applied for within 24 hours of the 15th absence or late.

*Please note***:** I start when the bell rings and I expect students to be ready to learn when I start. I will not wait for students. Students who come to class unprepared will be sent from the classroom to correct the situation. When the student returns, they will be considered late. Students will be given bell work to encourage punctuality. This will be included in their overall evaluation.

**MISSING WORK**

**Due Dates**

All assignments, quizzes, and exams must be handed in or written on the due date. Should a student have an *excused absence*, upon returning to school, the student will have three days to complete the assessment. It is the student’s responsibility to see the teacher to set a date for the makeup assessment. If that is not possible, communicate with me *prior* to your absence (or in the event of an unexpected absence while you are away) to set up suitable due dates.

**Extensions**

If you would like to request an extension, you must speak to me *in person* at least 24 hours prior to the due date.

**Unexcused Absences**

Any unexcused absence will automatically result in a mark of NHI0 for assignment, quiz, or exam due that day.

**Assignments**

All assignments are due at the beginning of class. If an assignment is late you will receive a 20% deduction off of your total mark. You will then have three days to complete the assignment and submit it. If the assignment is not submitted within the three day grace period, a NHI0 (Not Handed In, assigned a zero) will be assigned to the assignment. Furthermore there will be no rewrites or bonus assignments given.

**Tests**

A NHI0 will be issued to any student who misses a scheduled test unless a phone call or note has been received from a parent or guardian within 24 hours of the scheduled test. Students who are eligible to write a missed test will make arrangements with the teacher to do so.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Any student caught plagiarizing will be assigned a zero on the assignment. Further offenses will be referred to the vice-principal.

**Please note: This is an Advanced Placement class and, as such, much is expected from the students. There will be little tolerance for late assignments.**

**CLASS MATERIALS AND INFO**

You are to come to each class with your agenda, binder containing loose leaf paper, textbook, novel, handouts, pencil, eraser, and pens. Occasionally, you will need art supplies. Advanced notice will be provided for such cases.

**Online Course Materials and Communication**

Students can visit [www.msthibeault.weebly.com](http://www.msthibeault.weebly.com) to keep up to date with important notices, assignment due dates, extra resources, and much more. Students can contact me by commenting on the blog, sending me a tweet @MissThibeault, or by emailing s.thibeault@rcsd.ca. Parents can contact me by email at s.thibeault@rcsd.ca or by phone at 306-791-7230.

You may also subscribe to my Remind text messages by sending a text message to 778-653-6277 with the message “@gradenine.” I will periodically send out important reminders.

Disclaimer: I will communicate all information in class either verbally or in writing. Please pay attention, and use your student agenda. I cannot promise that I will always post all information online for you. Do not rely on technology instead of your eyes and ears.

**Technology**

We may use different technology for this class. This may include a cell phone, iPad(s)/tablet(s), or computers. We may use technology as a class, or permission may be granted individually depending on the situation. If I have not given you *explicit* permission to use your phone or any other technology, it should not be seen or heard.

**Backpacks**

No backpacks or bags are allowed in the classroom. Please use your locker and leave your backpack or bag in there at all times.

**Classroom Rules**

Respect others, respect yourself, and respect me. This simple rule covers the basis for behaviour in the classroom. Students who consistently become behavioural problems and disturb the learning environment of others will be referred to the administration. Students can refer to their agendas for issues on dress code, headwear, and other policies.

*All policies, content, and procedures in this course outline are subject to change at the discretion of the teacher.*

Dear parent/guardian:

Please take a moment to read the attached course outline and classroom policies so that you are familiar with your son’s/daughter’s responsibilities in this class. **Please pay particular attention to the MISSING WORK section.**

The policies and procedures apply to *both* ELA and Social Studies.

Please sign and return this portion of the course outline with your student.

I look forward to working with your student. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (306) 791-7230 or email me at s.thibeault@rcsd.ca.

Sincerely,

*Ms. Sara Thibeault*

**Student (Please Print):**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the above course outline.

**Parent/Guardian (Signature):**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the above course outline.