**Liverpool Regional High School**

  **Grade 9 English** with **Mrs. Erika Kirk**

Email: emcmahon@nspes.ca

Course Website: http://erikakirk.weebly.com

School Phone: 902-354-7600

**Course Goals:**

Grade 9 English offers students an opportunity to consolidate learning from grades 7 and 8 before they go on to high school English in grade 10. The Grade 9 English classroom offers abundant opportunities for students to read widely, to write frequently, to explore a wide range of print and visual texts, to work independently as well as collaboratively in small groups, and to design learning tasks that are of particular interest to them.

Because the goal of English Language Arts is the development of communication skills, it is essential that we maintain a classroom atmosphere that encourages respect and the sharing of ideas. Be prepared to listen and learn from each other.

**Students will:**

* Study and give detailed accounts of issues and texts read in class
* Demonstrate critical thinking ability
* Be analytical and informed viewers
* Express themselves with precision, effectiveness and respect
* Communicate using the conventions of Standard English
* Demonstrate control of the language process
* Use technology responsibly; with competency
* Practice effective problem solving and self-advocacy skills
* Meet assignment and task deadlines

**Assessment and Evaluation:**

**80% of the course grade** comes from Course Work, which is broken down and assessed in the three English Language Arts strands:

**Reading and Viewing** 30%

**Speaking and Listening** 30%

**Writing and Representing** 40%

The other **20% of the course grade** comes from a Final Process Exam to be written in June.

**Units of Study:**

Independent Reading and Analysis (Reading Workshop)

Personal Writing and Writing Skills (Writing Workshop)

Short Story

Novel

Drama

Media

Poetry

Persuasive Personal Essay Writing

**Assignment Due Dates:**

Students will be given assignments that are reasonable and suited to their learning strengths and needs. As such, student assignments are to be passed in on the prearranged due dates that have been determined by the class.

\*\* **Late work will not be accepted after that assignment has been marked and returned to the class**. Arrangements must be made **prior** to an assignment due date in order for you not to be penalized. It will be your responsibility to ensure you have passed all assignments in.

**Materials Needed for the Course:**

* 1 - 2” or 3” binder
* 1 package of binder dividers
* Looseleaf
* Black or Blue Pens , Pencils and Eraser
* Highlighters
* 1 package of small post it notes
* USB Stick/Flash Drive

**Communication with Home**

**(Please share this information with your parents)**

General methods of communication, report cards, Power Teacher and other website information are all outlined in your child’s Student Handbook and online at <http://www.lrhs.ednet.ns.ca>. You are encouraged to read these documents carefully and make use of the information.

In addition, **I strongly encourage you to contact me at any time you wish to find out how your child is progressing in this course, or if you have questions or concerns.** Your child will also need to find out material or assignments missed during an absence, as missed days will result in lost marks if the work is not made up or passed in upon the student’s return to school. In this regard it may be useful to **have my email or website address at hand** so that students can keep up to date on assignments. Alternatively, students may also use each other as resources – it is helpful to have the telephone numbers of several classmates that they feel comfortable contacting in case they can’t reach me. Always remember that I respond on a regular basis to emails, so please take advantage of this means of communication when outside of school if possible.

**Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Expectations of Your Best:**

* Students are responsible for attending class, doing their best work and meeting all deadlines.
* **Respect the classroom space, materials and the work of others**. The Visual Arts room is not a traditional classroom environment - materials and projects will be left in use and in progress. Therefore, respect of classroom materials and your own work, as well as for the work of others, is expected.
* Students are responsible for catching up on any work they miss due to absences. I am available before school, at recess, lunchtime and after school if you need help getting caught up or have questions about assignments. See me to set up a meeting time.
* Copied or plagiarized work from the Internet or any other source will result in having to redo the assignment, a call home and possibly an office referral.
* Students are responsible for coming to class prepared – *physically* (your books, a pen or pencil, etc.); *mentally* (yes, you have to think and be ready to do it!); and *emotionally* (have yourself in order if need be and focus on the task of the hour – learning).
* No locker visits or washroom breaks will be permitted during class time. **Make a point of being on time**; that is, going to your locker or the washroom before or after class.
* Students need to develop the habit of taking notes on what is said, written or seen.
* Students may have the **privilege** of using Mp3 players during **individual** **work only**; otherwise they are not to be visible or heard. This privilege will be revoked if it is abused.
* **This is a cell phone free zone.** I am not to see a cell phone out in class for any reason. If I do I will take it for the remainder of class time. If you are a repeat offender, I will take your phone and give it to administration and you can get it from them. If for any reason you have your phone on during class time, please discuss it with me one on one before class starts.