**English I / Course Syllabus / 2018-2019**

Mr. Searfoss

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**CONTENT TO BE COVERED:**  (Subject to Revision)

* This year we will be learning about these areas of English/Language Arts:
	+ Writing a Personal Narrative/Launching the Writer’s Notebook
	+ Reading Fiction Strategically/Narrative Reading
	+ Writing to Analyze/ SAT Prep
	+ Marketing and Media/Basics of Argumentation
	+ Reading Fiction/Independent Reading
	+ Writing About Short Fiction/Literary Essay
	+ Text Features and Structures and Researching a Trend/Informational Reading and Informational Essay
	+ Writing a Personal Essay/Writing the Argument
* We will also be looking at:
	+ Short Stories: Including but not limited to, “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” by James Thurber, “Cask of Amontillado” by Edgar Allan Poe, “The Most Dangerous Game” by Richard Connell, and “The Sniper” by Liam O'Flaherty
	+ Class Novels: *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck AND/OR *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
	+ Independent Choice Reading Books
	+ Various Articles and Essays
	+ Grammar, Mechanics, and Usage
	+ Grade-level Academic Vocabulary

***\*\*\*****Those students not in band will also be in English Lab. This will take place during 7th Hour. This extra thirty minutes might consist of extra time to work on current assignments, extra reading time, and/or mini-lessons on related English topics.*

**RULES, PROCEDURES, AND ROUTINES:**

**Long-Range English Class Components:**

* In English class, we strive to…
	+ Learn something new about reading, writing, and communicating every day.
	+ Apply what we have learned from reading to aspects of everyday life.
	+ Develop writing skills that allow us to communicate in narrative, persuasive, and expository styles.
	+ Learn to study independently and apply what we have learned during instruction.

**Guidelines for Success:**

* **F**ind the courage it takes to grow up and become who we are meant to be.
* **O**pen up to challenges, so we can grow and learn.
* **C**are and be kind, for everyone we meet is fighting a hard battle.
* **U**nderstand that dreams only work when we do.
* **S**et ourselves up for success, so anything can be possible.

**Bell-Work/Daily Warm Up:**

* The daily warm-up will consist of reading twenty minutes each day right at the beginning of class (This is consistent with what will be happening with grades 6-12 in all ELA classrooms at Vestaburg).
* Bring a book with you or grab a book from the classroom library each day.
* Be in your seat before the bell goes off, and begin reading.
* This warm-up reading time is two points daily.
	+ 1 pt. = Having your book out and open
	+ 1 pt. = Remaining on task and reading during the reading check
* You will be expected to read at least one book every nine weeks in the first semester and two books every nine weeks in the second semester, while keeping a reading log and completing a One-Pager form. Each of these forms is 5 points for a total of 10 points per a book. This will be a test grade.
* Weekly teacher conferences will also take place during this reading time where we will discuss what you’re reading.


**Weekly Vocabulary:**

* We have a list of 65 important grade-level academic vocabulary words that we will be learning throughout the year; therefore, we will be looking at a couple words each week.
* You will have a Word of the Week (WOW) page to fill out for each word.
* These should be turned in every Friday for a grade. If you get them done early, turn them in early.
* As the year progresses, you will be expected to know how to use WOW words and use them in your writing.

**Instruction:**

* Classroom instruction will come in a variety of styles, but these standards always apply:
	+ Students will raise their hands if they need to address the teacher and/or the class.
	+ Students are not to leave their seats (for example, to sharpen a pencil, throw something away, use the bathroom, look out the window at a guy riding a unicycle down the road, etc.) while the teacher or another student is speaking and/or teaching.

**Grading:**

* Assignments are based on a point system where larger assignments and tests are worth more points than daily assignments and classroom activities.
* Students will receive grades in the following areas:
	+ Classwork/Homework/Participation – 20%,
	+ Assessments (quizzes, tests, projects, formal papers) – 60%
	+ Midterm and Final Exam – 20%
* The grading scale is as follows:

93-100% A 87-89% B+ 77-79% C+ 67-69% D+ 0-59% F

90-92% A- 83-86% B 73-76% C 63-66% D

 80-82% B- 70-72% C- 60-62% D-

* Any cheating will result in a zero on that assignment, quiz, or test and parents/guardians will be notified.

**Assignments/Homework/Late Work:**

* All assignments are due at the beginning of class unless otherwise directed. If you do not turn in an assignment when it is collected, even if you turn it in the same day, it will be late.
* All late work receives one letter grade lower for each day it is late.
* If you were absent the day something was assigned, see the teacher for missing work BEFORE or AFTER class. It is your responsibility to check the board, the website, or with other students about updates on days that you missed school. You have a limited time to make up assignments, only one additional day. When turning in an assignment from an absence make sure you write absent at the top.

**Turning in Assignments:**

* Assignments go in the baskets by the door that isn’t in use.
* Make sure you turn your work into the basket that is labeled for your class and hour.
* If you’re turning in late work, give it to Mr. Searfoss directly.



**School-Wide Classroom Expectations (What Does This Look Like?)**

* Be Responsible:
* Be Respectful:
* Be Ready:
* Be Safe:

**Mr. Searfoss’ Classroom Rules:**

1. Be on-time, on-task, and prepared to learn every single day.
2. Keep all personal electronics put away (unless given permission to use for educational purposes).
3. Be responsible for your own learning.
4. Respect the teacher, the classroom, other students, and yourself.
5. Trash goes in the trash can. Recycle what can be recycled. Please walk all of these items to each bin.

**Breaking Rules/Consequence System:**

* Failure to follow these rules will result in consequences.
	+ *First Offense: Reminder of Expectation*
	+ *Second Offense: Verbal Conference with Teacher*
	+ *Third Offense: Lunch Detention*
	+ *Four Offense: Contact with Parents*
	+ *Fifth Offense: Blue Slip and Contact with Office/Administration*
	+ *Sixth-? Offense: Automatic Blue Slip*

**The CHAMPS System:**

* The CHAMPS system will be used in this classroom as a guideline of what to do during each activity. Below is a review of what each of these letters stands for in this system:
	+ **C=Conversation** (Can I talk to my classmates?)
	+ **H=Help** (How do I get Mr. Searfoss’ attention?)
	+ **A=Activity** (What am I trying to accomplish?)
	+ **M=Movement** (Can I move around the room?)
	+ **P=Participation** (How do I show I am participating?)
	+ **S=Success** (If I do these things, I will succeed.)

**Voice Levels:**

* The conversation portion of CHAMPS will be aligned with the following voice levels:
	+ **Voice Level 0: No Sound / No Talking**
		- Examples: taking a test, listening to a speaker
	+ **Voice Level 1: Whisper (no vocal cords)**
		- Examples: asking another student a question during independent work time in which conversation is allowed
	+ **Voice Level 2: Quiet Conversational Voice (only people near you can hear you)**
		- Example: two or three students walking down the hall, four students working in a cooperative group
	+ **Voice Level 3: Presentational Voice (an entire classroom can hear you)**
		- Example: a student giving a presentation, a teacher teaching a class)
	+ **Voice Level 4: Outdoor Voice (you can be heard across a playing field)**
		- Example: cheering at a football game

**Getting Attention:**

* During class time, if Mr. Searfoss needs everyone’s attention, he will count down from three.
* Once he gets to one, you should have eyes on him and be listening for an announcement.

**Active Listening**

* During presentations, lectures, and other activities you may be asked to be an active listener. The following are the steps for actively listening:
1. **Pay Attention**
	1. Give the speaker your undivided attention, and acknowledge the message.
2. **Show That You’re Listening**
	1. Use your own body language and gestures to convey your attention.
3. **Provide Feedback**
	1. Reflect on what is being said and ask questions after the speaker is finished talking.
4. **Defer Judgement**
	1. Allow the speaker to finish each point before asking questions, and don’t interrupt with counterarguments.
5. **Respond Appropriately**
	1. Be candid, open, and honest in your response. Assert your opinions respectfully. Treat the other person in a way you think he or she would want to be treated.

**Hall Passes:**

* You will have FOUR hall passes that are your responsibility to keep track of for the entire semester. Use them wisely because these are the only ones that you will be given and allowed to use in class. At the end of the semester, if you have any passes left, you can turn them back in for extra credit (5 points for each blank space).
* Make sure you also sign the bathroom/hallway log on the computer before leaving and when returning to the classroom.

**Class Dismissal:**

* Remember, the teacher, NOT the clock, dismisses the class!
* Turn in any work from that day.
* Clean up your work area.
* Listen quietly for any important announcements from the teacher.
* Then you may socialize at your seats until the bell rings (not lining up at the door).

**Tardy Policy:**

* Knock on the door, hand in your pass, and go quietly to your seat.
* As per the student handbook:
	+ If you have no pass and you are late < 10 minutes, you will be marked as tardy.
	+ If you have no pass and you are late >10 minutes, you will be marked as absent.
	+ THREE tardies equals a lunch detention and parent contact.
	+ FOUR tardies equal another lunch detention and parent contact.
	+ FIVE tardies (and every tardy after that) equals an automatic blue slip to the office.
* If you are not in your seat when the bell rings, you will be marked as tardy.

**Food/Drinks:**

* Drinks are allowed IF they can be resealed (NO CANS or TWO LITERS!) and are away from your Chromebooks.
* Food is allowed IF it isn’t a distraction. Therefore, it should be consumed in a quiet manner and any mess (wrappers, crumbs, etc.) should be cleaned up.

**Chromebooks:**

* Chromebooks should be picked up and returned to their cart at the beginning and end of school each day. Make sure they get plugged in and placed in the correct spot.
* Treat the Chromebooks as if they are something that you’ve bought with your hard-earned money. It’s a privilege to use the computer. If you mistreat that privilege, you won’t be using the computer.
* No eating or drinking while using the Chromebooks.
* Chromebooks should only be used in classrooms. They are not to be used at lunch, in the gym or locker rooms, in the bathroom, or the hallway.
* Follow the Vestaburg Community School Electronic Information Access and Use Policy that you agreed to and signed when using your Chromebook.

**Cell Phones:**

* Cell phones should be placed in a pocket or bag (out of sight…not even on desks). They won’t be needed for research purposes this year, as you have Chromebooks. Unless the teacher has stated it is a cell phone day, your cell phone should be out of sight.
* If you are using your cell phone when it should be put away, I will take it.
	+ *First Offense: You will be given a warning.*
	+ *Second Offense: Your cell phone will be returned at the end of class.*
	+ *Third Offense: Your cell phone will be returned at the end of the day, and a parent or guardian will be notified.*
	+ *Fourth Offense: Your cell phone will be turned into the office, and a parent or guardian will have to pick it up.*
	+ *Subsequent Offenses: Repeat of Forth Offense*

**Music Devices:**

* Music devices or Pandora over the classroom speaker will be allowed during certain times of independent class work. However, there are some guidelines:
	+ You may listen to music during work time only, not when the teacher is teaching.
	+ If you’re using a device other than your Chromebook for music (example: iPhone, iPod, MP3, etc.) you must ask permission.
	+ You MUST have your own headphones/ear buds with you, no asking classmates to borrow.
	+ Keep the volume down. I will tell you one time to turn it down. After that, if still too loud, it gets put away.
	+ No sharing headphones/ear buds. Both need to be in your ears.

**Tickets/Reward System:**

* Reward tickets will be given out for a variety of reasons: turning in homework, having required materials, being ready to learn, following directions, doing great work, etc. You are responsible for keeping track of all the tickets that you earn. Tickets can be redeemed for items in the prize box during random drawings throughout the semester. You must be present in order to receive your prize.

**Extra Credit:**

* You’ll have the opportunity to earn extra credit a few times each semester. Extra credit can be earned by turning in leftover hall passes and by completing extension activities that the teacher offers during some lessons. Do these when offered instead of coming and ask for extra credit during the last week of the semester.

**Fire Drill/Tornado Drill/Lockdown Drill**

* In the event of a fire drill, we exit the double doors across from the media center and line up by the bus barns.
* In the event of a tornado drill, we enter the teacher’s lounge / workroom across from Ms. Hunter’s classroom.
* In the event of a lockdown drill, we put the blinds on all windows and put the BOOT system in each door. The lights and all other sounds (music, videos, etc.) will be turned off. We will sit QUIETLY along the wall by the teacher’s desk, away from the doors and windows. In special circumstances, we might need to run out the right window of the window wall.

**English Paper Expectations:**

* The following are the guidelines for **FORMAL** English papers:
	+ Type using a 12-point standard font.
	+ Do not use all capital letters, all italics, all boldface, or strange fonts.
	+ Double-space the entire paper.
	+ One-inch margins should be on all sides.
	+ Indent five spaces at the beginning of a new paragraph.
	+ Do not justify; keep everything aligned to the left.
	+ Leave only one space after all punctuation.
	+ When using an ellipsis, only use three (…).
	+ Always have a header (right side, top, last name, page number).
	+ Page one, top left should include:
		- Your Name
		- Teacher’s Name
		- Course Name
		- Date
	+ The title should be the same size and font as the body, without quotation marks or underlining.
	+ DO NOT USE 1st or 2nd person point of view, unless asked to do so specifically. After the first nine weeks, you will lose points if you use anything but 3rd person.
	+ DO NOT USE contractions. For example, write out cannot instead of can’t or they are instead of they’re. After the first nine weeks, you will lose points if you use contractions in formal writing.
* A strong paper will have:
	+ A strong thesis statement
	+ A strong introduction
	+ A strong body with no less than 3 supporting details
	+ A strong conclusion wrapping everything up
	+ Avoided redundancy (pointless repetition)
	+ Strong verbs and an abundant variety of clear, educated words
	+ Longer sentences
	+ Organization
	+ A stable, coherent voice