

PVMS 9TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS 2017-2018

MRS. CAMILLE SYLVESTER

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email:

camille.sylvester@washk12.org

Website:

sylvestersstudyhall.weebly.com

I communicate with parents and students in a variety of ways. Parents and students alike, please check our class website frequently for up-to-date information about our class. Also, I will send periodic emails home with updates of what we are working on and what is coming up in class.

The best way for students to contact me outside of class is before or after school. I am always in the school building for the half hour before and after school.

The best way for parents to contact me is through email. I check my email multiple times a day and will reply to you quickly.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An integrated study of literature, writing, grammar and conventions, and oral communication.

Welcome to the 9th Grade! In Language Arts this year, you will further develop your ability to use language for learning and critical thinking and as a source of lifelong enjoyment. We will focus on the study of:

- Argumentative and expository writing.
- Six Traits of Writing (development of ideas, organization, style, word choice, sentence structure, and conventions.)
- Combining complex sentence and paragraph patterns for precise, concise, and logical (PCL) writing.
- Synthesizing information from multiple sources.
- MLA citation.
- Literature: reading like a detective (with a special focus on the common themes of Rites of Passage and survival.)
- Literary and rhetorical devices and logical fallacies.
- Extended critical thinking.
- Vocabulary (both general and course-specific.)
- ACT and scholarship prep through means-ends analysis.

**"EDUCATION IS NOT THE FILLING OF A PAIL
BUT THE LIGHTING OF A FIRE"
(WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS).**

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO READ?

Novels:

- *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens
- *Anthem* by Ayn Rand

Plays:

- *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare
- *The Miracle Worker* by William Gibson

Short Stories:

- "Through the Tunnel" by Doris Lessing
- "The Bridge" by Nicolai Chukovski
- "Marigolds" by Eugenia Collier
- "The Scarlet Ibis" by James Hurst
- "The Most Dangerous Game" by Richard Connell
- "To Build a Fire" by Jack London

Informational Texts:

- "State of the Union Address" by Franklin D. Roosevelt
- "I am an American" by Learned Hand
- Various informational articles & historical speeches

Videos: to be used for educational purposes, including synthesis of digital texts with written texts. All videos will comply with WCSD's ethical policies for media and technology.

- *A Christmas Carol*
- *Romeo and Juliet*

GRADING POLICY

The school-wide grading scale will be used for this course. Assignments will be graded in a timely manner, and grades will be updated on PowerSchool a minimum of once a week.

I do not give out permanent 0's. **ALL WORK MUST BE COMPLETED. To receive any points on an assignment, it must be 100% completed; partially completed work will be returned**

with no credit given until it is completed. Students with temporary 0's for uncompleted work, or who earn below a "C" grade on any work, will be immediately referred to Pine View Middle School's PRIDE and PAWS programs (see "Student/Parent Handbook" for details) until they are caught up.

Late work will always be accepted. No points are taken off for late work, however, the

student must complete a **teacher-approved classroom chore** before or after school before he or she will be allowed to turn in late work.

I do not give extra credit. To improve their grades, students are able to redo any coursework, including homework, projects, and assessments. Students should arrange to meet with me one-on-one to discuss how to proceed with any redo work.

BEHAVIOR POLICY

No behavior will be allowed that interferes with the **RIGHTS** of every student to listen and learn in a safe environment.

CLASS RULES

- 1 Be on-time, on-task, prepared to learn, and **RESPONSIBLE** for your own learning **EVERY DAY**.
- 2 Personal electronics are for **EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY!**
- 3 **ALWAYS** be **HONEST**.
- 4 **RESPECT** the teacher, the classroom, other students
- 5 Clean up after yourself! **#NOTYOURMAID**

- The **first disruptive behavior** will result in a hallway conference with the teacher.
- The **second disruptive behavior** will result in one lunch detention and a parent contact.
- The **third disruptive behavior** will result in two lunch detentions and a parent conference.
- The **fourth disruptive behavior** will result in removal from class to the principal's office for the rest of the current class period, and a Disciplinary Referral Form being sent to the office.
- **THIS IS FOR THE ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR. YOUR RECORD DOES NOT RESET AT THE END OF EACH**

COURSE MATERIALS

- College rule notebook
- Black or blue pen
- Red pen
- Paper folder with 3 metal prongs & pockets (**not a plastic binder with rings**)
- 2017-2018 day planner
- 12-pack colored pencils
- Personal reading book

Students will need to have these materials in class by **Monday, August 21st / Tuesday, August 22nd**. For students with extenuating circumstances, who are unable to purchase these materials, please speak with me privately.

END-OF-LEVEL TESTING

BRAGGING RIGHTS!

- PVMS 9th Grade Language Arts ranked:
 - 3rd for all Utah middle schools on the state test.
 - 1st for all WCSD middle schools.
 - Above WCSD and state averages.
 - Students' average writing score of 570 (highly proficient).
- We work hard to help your students be successful!

At the end of the school year, **ALL** students will take an end-of-level test. The test will either be the Utah state test or one that I have prepared as an alternative. It is up to you as parents and students to decide which test your student will take, but they will take one.

CLASS CONTRACT

Please detach and return this sheet by Thursday, August 17th / Friday, August 18th.
Your signature acknowledges that you have read the course disclosure in its entirety
and that you agree to abide by the class policies and procedures.

Student name (printed): _____ Period: _____

Student signature: _____

Parent signature: _____

Date: _____

Parents/Guardians,

Our 9th Grade Language Arts class will be reading *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. We will also be watching clips from "A Christmas Carol" with actor Patrick Stewart as Scrooge. This was a movie made for television by TNT and Hallmark Entertainment in 1999.

Later in the year, we will also be reading *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare. As part of our discussions, we will be watching a couple short clips from the film "Romeo + Juliet", with actor Leonardo DiCaprio as Romeo, released in 1996, and rated PG-13. At the conclusion of reading this play, we will also be watching the full film, "Romeo & Juliet," with actress Hailee Steinfeld as Juliet, released in 2013, and rated PG-13.

All media will be used for educational purposes and in accordance with WCSD and PVMS ethical policies for media and technology. With this in mind, please fill out and return the following permission slip regarding your preferences for your student:

• **A CHRISTMAS CAROL (1999)**

___ Yes, I give my son/daughter permission to view video clips from this film.

___ No, I do not give my son/daughter permission to view the video clips mentioned in this letter. I

understand alternate learning experiences will be provided for my child while the movie is being watched.

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____

Date: _____

• **ROMEO + JULIET (1996)**

___ Yes, I give my son/daughter permission to view video clips from this film.

___ No, I do not give my son/daughter permission to view the video clips mentioned in this letter. I

understand alternate learning experiences will be provided for my child while the movie is being watched.

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____

Date: _____

• **ROMEO & JULIET (2013)**

___ Yes, I give my son/daughter permission to view this film.

___ No, I do not give my son/daughter permission to view the film mentioned in this letter. I understand alternate learning experiences will be provided for my child while the movie is being watched.

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____

Date: _____