Course Description & Goals

- English Language Arts I is a required course for all ninth grade students.
- Based on the National Common Core Standards, this course provides students with the skills and knowledge to become critical readers and writers by analyzing key ideas and details, craft and structure, and the integration of knowledge and ideas in literature and informational texts.
- Students will develop their writing skills by examining text types and purposes and by writing arguments, explanatory/informational texts, and narratives.
- Using the full writing process, students will learn how to produce and distribute quality writing using technology’s capacity to produce, publish, and share writing products.
- Students will conduct short research projects and will participate in a range of collaborative discussions integrating multiple sources of information.
- This course will advance students’ knowledge of the conventions of Standard English and will strengthen vocabulary acquisition and use. This course is supported through various literary genre studies.

Required Materials

- iPad- please bring iPad to class daily charged to take notes and respond to class discussions. We will be using Google Drive to share and attempt to use less paper. We will also be utilizing other online resources which will require access to internet.
- Books- These are all on the iPad. If you bring your iPad each day, you will always have your books.
  - Sadlier-Oxford Vocabulary Book
  - Grammar for Writing Textbook- Level Blue
  - Pearson Common Core Literature Book- Grade 9
- Loose-leaf Notebook & pen/pencil - occasionally we will be writing hand written notes and journal responses when we are using the iPad to read in class.
- Folder- for bellringers I collect on paper, holding returned tests or quizzes and other materials as needed.

Grading Policy

- Evaluation will be made on each student individually, especially in the area of participation.
- Grading will be based on:
  - Class participation
  - Quizzes
  - Homework
  - Tests
  - Papers
• Homework/Projects
  o You will be expected to do work outside of class.
  o You may turn in homework late. However, after the due date you will only receive half credit. After two days it is a zero unless there has been an absence.
• Grades will be posted through Gradeconnect. Grades are weighted as followed:
  o Participation: 17%
  o Tests: 30%
  o Projects or Longer Papers/Essays: 25%
  o Quizzes: 17%
  o Homework:11%
    ▪ I will post grades as soon as possible, however if you are concerned about your grade please check online or arrange to speak with me after class.

Expectations- The “Be”s

• Be on time
  o I expect when the bell rings at the beginning of class, you will be in your seat, have materials ready, and are working on the “bellringer.”
  o On time does not mean running through the door as the bell is ringing.
  o If you are running late from a previous class, please have your teacher write a note or pass to excuse you from being tardy.
  o **If tardiness becomes a recurring issue, demerits will be issued.**

• Be prepared
  o You must work outside of class in order to be completely successful in this course.
  o Make sure to bring required supplies to class each day. Items include: iPad, pencil/ pen, homework assignments and/or projects, books (as needed)
  o **Late Work:**
    ▪ If you do not have an assignment in class the day it is due, you will only receive half credit the following day. After two days, I will not accept late work unless spoken to with a particular issue or emergency.
    ▪ **You are honors. The expectation is you are capable of being responsible.**

• Be respectful
  o Respect and be sensitive to the ideas, opinions, and property of others.
  o Think before you act and treat others with kindness and consideration.
    ▪ Listening to others during discussions
  o **Swearing, bullying, or physical abuse is not tolerated.**
  o No food or drink in the classroom.
  o **Dress code and code of conduct as found in the PJP handbook will be enforced.**

• Be involved
  o Please ask questions!!!
    ▪ I am here for your success as a student. I am always willing to help go over something or answer questions for clarification.
    ▪ I do not have a permanent classroom; if you have questions outside of class, please feel free to talk to me at the end of class or email me. (ceary@pjphs.org)
  o **Participation**
    ▪ This is an English class so there will be discussion and talking to one another. There is a participation grade. Involvement and participation is highly encouraged in order to be successful in class.
    ▪ The ability to listen and follow directions correlates with your participation.
    ▪ This is **YOUR** classroom community as much as mine, being involved will make things more interesting, more relevant, and you more prepared for tests/quizzes/writing assignments/ etc.
Additional Policies

**Phone Policy**
- Technology is becoming more involved in our lives and cell phones can be used as a learning tool. However, cell phones are not permitted to be used in class unless the teacher has stated otherwise.
- If a student has a cell phone in their possession during class, there is to be absolutely no texting or social media use.
  - If caught texting in class or a ringer goes off, students will have one verbal warning.
  - Any other instance will result in the confiscation of the phone until the end of the period and possible demerits.
  - Use of a cell phone during a test or quiz is considered a form of cheating. A student seen using a cell phone or electronic device during a quiz or test, unless specified, will receive a zero.

**Attendance/Absence**
- See “Be on time” above for class expectations for coming to class each day.
- If a student is absent, he/she the student’s responsibility to follow up with the teacher in regards to missed work.
  - **If a student knows they are going to not be in class in advance, it is within the student’s best interest to communicate that with the teacher.**
    - Sports conflict
    - Doctor’s appointment
    - Family trip
  - You will only have as many days as you were out to submit missed/assigned work unless you have spoken with me.
  - Exceptions will only be made for extenuating circumstances (severe/extended illness, death in family)

**Plagiarism/ Cheating**
- Do not cheat off someone else’s test, quiz, project, paper etc.
- Don’t forget to cite all evidence that was not originally your own. If you forget or intentionally leave out citations, that is plagiarism. We will be setting up a “Turnitin” account online in the first couple weeks of the year.
- From PJPHS handbook, **“The penalty for any act of academic dishonesty may include a grade of ‘F’ for the examination or assignment.”**
  - Please don’t cheat/plagiarize. It is not worth it and has serious consequences.

**Extra Credit**
- Extra credit questions/assignments may be give periodically to be earned during class or during review games/competitions.
- Extra credit will not be given to pull up failing grades. This sends the message that a student does not have to take studying or completing assignments seriously.

*This syllabus may change as needed*

Student Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Parent Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________