**English 9-5**

**Class Contract (2024-2025)**

**East Brunswick Campus - Middlesex County Magnet Schools**

**Instructors:** Mrs. Solomon & Mrs. Bertram

**Room:** AC 102

 **Email:** solomonl@mcmsnj.net / bertramj@mcmsnj.net

**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Welcome to English 9! This will be an exciting year in which you will be challenged to become better writers, readers, communicators and thinkers! Our focus will be on the language arts skills needed to succeed in college, careers and beyond.

**II. TEXTBOOKS\*:** *Pearson Literature*; supplemental texts & novels

***\*Please note that all textbooks have been approved by the Board of Education. If for some reason a student or parent objects to a particular reading, an alternative reading will be assigned to that student.***

**III. SYLLABUS (Schedule may change at discretion of the teacher.)**

MP 1: Argumentative Texts

MP 2: Informative Texts

MP 3: Short Stories / Narrative Texts

MP 4: Novels / Literary Analysis

**IV. GRADING POLICY**

Writing 30%

Reading 30%

Speaking & Listening 20%

Language 20%

 100%

**V.** **SUPPLIES & MATERIALS**

1 – **Required:** A working Chromebook (to be charged each night so that you will have power when you come to class). If your Chromebook breaks, it is your responsibility to notify a school administrator in the Main Office so that you can obtain a replacement.

2 – **Required:** A school email address (@mcmsnj.net). Any messages to your teacher must be sent through your school email, **not** through your personal email. Your teacher will not open emails from students’ personal email addresses. If your school email address is not working, it is your responsibility to notify your guidance counselor so that the problem can be fixed.

3 – **Required:** An account in our Google Classroom. All assignments posted in the Google Classroom must be submitted in the Google Classroom. Do not email assignments.

4 – **Required:** Spiral notebook & folder OR a binder (at least 8”x10” in size). Although assignments will be posted online and submitted online, you will use your notebook to take notes and to practice the skills that are being taught during class sessions. Note-taking quizzes will be given in which you will be allowed to use your handwritten notes.

5 - **Required:** Two (2) Sharpened pencils and two (2) dark blue or black pens.

6 - **Optional but recommended:** A memory stick to save work when the Internet is down.

VI. **RULES OF CONDUCT:** As this is a magnet school that prepares students for careers, you are expected to practice using the same professional skills that are necessary to succeed in the workplace. You might not be friends with everyone, but you are expected to be civil and respectful to all teachers and students. Disruptive behavior or offensive comments will result in any or all of the following: a conference with your teacher; a phone call or email to parent/guardian; a discipline referral sent to the Assistant Principal; and other consequences outlined in the Student Handbook posted on the school website.

**VII. CLASSROOM PROCEDURES**

***At the beginning of the period***

1. Enter the room calmly and with a positive attitude.

2. Sit in your assigned seat before the bell rings. Otherwise you will be marked late.

3. Turn off cell phones and put them away.

4. Chromebooks/electronic devices are to be used for academic purposes only. No chatting, posting on social media, etc. during class.

5. Begin your Do Now assignment by the time that the late bell rings.

***During the lesson***

5 Listen carefully to instructions the first time they are given.

6. Use good manners and polite language.

7. Do your own work. Students who copy other people’s work or allow them to copy their work will receive a zero for the plagiarized assignment**.**

***At the end of the period***

8. Help straighten the rows and clean up trash (even if it isn’t “yours”).

9. Stay in your seat until the bell rings. DO NOT line up at the door.

**VIII. HOMEWORK & CLASSWORK POLICY**

Late work: In order to receive full credit for homework and classwork, assignments must be handed in on time. Otherwise, you have until Monday of the following week to hand in late work. Please note that points will be deducted for lateness and that after Monday, you will receive a zero for any missed work from the previous week. If you have personal or extenuating circumstances (ex. health crisis or family emergency), please discuss privately with your teacher; a note from your parent/guardian may be required.

Absent work: If you miss class for an excused reason (ex. illness, school trip, school-sponsored activity), you have until Monday to make up missed classwork or homework without a late penalty. Please label the work “ABSENT” on top of the assignment. A note from your parent/guardian may be required.

**IX. LONG TERM PROJECT POLICY**

Time extensions are generally not granted for long-term projects, as students are expected to learn how to budget their time. There will be a 10 point penalty for each day that the project is late. If you have personal or extenuating circumstances (ex. health crisis or family emergency), please discuss privately with your teacher; a note from your parent/guardian may be required.

**X. TEST & QUIZ POLICY**

Tests are announced a week in advance, but there are pop quizzes! If you are absent on the day of a test or quiz, be prepared to take the assessment on the day that you return to class. It is your responsibility to speak with your teacher at the start of class so that you can be provided with time to make up the assessment. If you have extenuating circumstances (ex. health crisis or family emergency), please discuss privately with your teacher; a note from your parent/guardian may be required.

**XI. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY**

We are fortunate to have so many technological tools to help us to learn. However, there are both positive ways and negative ways to use technology as a learning tool.

In general, academic honesty means doing your own work without copying words or ideas from another person or from a website. An honest student uses the Internet as a reference source (ex. to look up definitions of words they don’t know) or as a way to check their work (ex. by using a grammar/spelling checker).

Unfortunately, with the increase in the number of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Paraphrasing Websites available, some students are tempted to use technology in dishonest ways. Examples of Academic Dishonesty include:

1 - Copying and pasting words from the Internet or from a student without giving credit to the source (by putting quotation marks around the copied words, providing a parenthetical citation, and putting a Works Cited section at the bottom of your page).

2 - Using an Artificial Intelligence website to write an assignment for you.

3 - Using a Paraphrasing Website to change words that you have copied and pasted from the Internet or from a student without giving credit to the source (by providing a parenthetical citation and putting a Works Cited section at the bottom of your page).

4 - Copying the structure and ideas from another student's paragraph, journal, or other assignment (even if you change the words to synonyms). Unless you are doing partner work, any writing that you submit should contain your own original ideas organized into your own original sentences and paragraphs.

5 - Allowing another student to copy or paraphrase your assignment.

Your teachers use a variety of methods to monitor academic integrity, such as: Google Originality Reports; AI checkers; writing conferences with students. If a student is found to have violated the academic integrity policy by committing one or more of the infractions, the consequences may include but are not limited to:

* A meeting with teacher during which student will be required to explain the thinking and writing processes used to complete the assignment
* Notifying parent/guardian of infraction
* Re-doing the assignment in a teacher-supervised environment
* Receiving zero credit for the assignment with no opportunity to make it up
* A discipline referral sent to school administrators

If you are not sure whether you are doing something that falls into the category of Academic Dishonesty, you have two choices-- 1) don't do it OR 2) ask your teacher whether what you are doing is okay.

**XII. GOOGLE CLASSROOM PROCEDURES**

1) Each day that class meets, assignments and notes will be posted in the Google Classroom. Use the “Classwork” tab to see each day’s assignments and notes. **DO NOT** use the “Stream” tab.

2) If you are absent, check the Google Classroom to see what you missed that day. Once you have read that day’s assignments and notes, feel free to contact your teacher with any questions. DO NOT ask the teacher what you missed that day without first looking at the Google Classroom.

3 ) Assignments posted in the Google Classroom are to be “turned in” in the Google Classroom. If you do not click on the “Turn In” button, you will receive a zero for the assignment.

4) **DO NOT** post comments in the Google Classroom. If you have a question for your teacher, email her or speak to her.

5) Use proper English! Whether you are working on an assignment or participating in an online chat, this is a requirement! Correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation are expected in all academic writing. Use MLA style as well.

6) Be courteous during online discussions. A virtual classroom is a professional environment. You may not necessarily be friends with everyone, but you are expected to be polite to all.

**XIII. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

* **Fire Drill Procedure:** Quietly leave the classroom and exit the building through the nearest door. Stay together as a class.
* **Non-fire evacuation:** Follow fire drill instructions, but walk further away from the building as instructed.
* **Lockdown**: Move to the back of the classroom and sit on the floor away from the view of the front door. Remain calm and do not talk. The door will be locked, and the lights will be turned off. Do not return to your seats until two staff members state their names and say “all clear” three times.
* **Shelter-in-Place:** Community emergency. Stay in the building to keep safe. If it is a medical emergency, students must stay in the classroom so that the hallways remain clear.

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