

**Course Syllabus**  
**9th Grade ELA**  
**2020–2021 Academic Year**

**Teacher:** Mrs. Wheeler  
**Room:** 2501  
**E-mail:** lonna.wheeler@hcbe.net

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to build on students reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Students will be exposed to a variety of texts where they will learn to analyze the text, understand perspective, and identify its purpose. Students will explore various genres of writing where they will learn to develop a story, effectively present information, conduct research, support claims, and defend their reasoning. These skills will support students in academic classes, and it will allow students to develop critical skills necessary for life.

**Mrs. Wheeler’s Expectations:**

1. Put forth your best effort and actively participate.
2. Come to class prepared with the required materials listed below.
  - a. Students need a pencil, English notebook, and independent novel.
3. Be respectful of others and their belongings.

**Grading:**

Grades are not given to you; they are earned by you!

The following is the grading scale:

<b>Category/Weight</b>	<b>Description</b>
15% – daily work	Daily work includes classwork and homework.
20% – minor assessments	Minor assessments include quizzes, essay drafts, etc.
45% – major assessments	Major assessments include tests, projects, final essays, etc.
20% – final assessments/EOC	Final assessments include the fall final and spring GA Milestone.

**Policies and Procedures**

<b>Food and Beverages</b>	Food and beverages are allowed in the classroom for breakfast and lunch. You will use the trashcan in the hall to throw away food items. Please help take care of your space and the classroom. When it is not a meal time, you are only allowed bottled water.
<b>Late Work</b>	I will accept late assignments to a certain degree, but don’t let it become habitual. Students will receive partial credit on assignments turned in late. If you ever have a concern about an assignment or due date, please discuss it with me BEFORE it is too late. My goal is for you to succeed.
<b>Textbook</b>	We use HMH’s <i>Georgia Collections</i> in 9th grade ELA. We will use these textbooks as a class set. However, if a student fails to return or damages a borrowed textbook, they will be charged \$36 to replace it. If a student loses a novel, they will be charged \$12 to replace it.

<b>Proper Communication</b>	Ensure that you respect others when communicating. I will teach you how to properly communicate your ideas and beliefs within an academic setting. Additionally, ensure that you include your peers when working together. Be kind, and help one another learn. When your peers share their opinions, try to understand their perspective and respect it. (That does not mean that you have to agree.)
<b>Academic Integrity</b>	Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Copying another student's work, failing to cite sources when using the ideas of others, and submitting the same work from another class are all unacceptable. If you are caught doing either, you will receive a zero for that assignment, and I will contact your parents/guardians. You will receive an opportunity to show learning and replace the zero.
<b>Planned absence</b>	If you know of an upcoming absence, you should get your work for those days beforehand. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o If there is an assignment due while you are scheduled to be gone, you must come to me to work out your due date.</li> </ul>
<b>Unplanned absence</b>	If you are unexpectedly absent, you will come to me as soon as you return to school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o You will be given five days to make up the assignment(s) you missed and turn them in.</li> <li>o If there is an essay or project due on a day that you are absent, I will need an excuse in order to accept your assignment. You would have known the due date in advance of the absence.</li> </ul>
<b>Retesting</b>	Students have the opportunity to retake two tests a semester. The retake must take place within one week of the date the original test is returned to the student. (This policy does not apply to a test where the student was found cheating.)
<b>Technology use in the classroom</b>	Unless otherwise directed, your cell phones and laptops should be put away. Student technology is only allowed to be used for educational purposes as directed. When I am absent and you have a substitute, you are not allowed to be on your cell phones or laptops.
<b>Remediation</b>	Remediation is designed to help students succeed and offer individualized support. Remediation day for the English department/classes is every Monday.
<b>Classroom Library</b>	I have a number of books in my classroom available for checkout by students. Students will be required to have parent permission to check out books from my classroom library. While I monitor the books that students read in my classroom and the books I add to my classroom library, please know that different parents have different opinions about what is "appropriate" for their child. I ask that parents monitor what their child is reading. By giving permission to use my classroom library, also know that you are agreeing to pay for any lost or damaged books. The replacement fee is \$5 per title.

**\*All rules, procedures, and policies are subject to change at teacher discretion. We are facing unprecedented times, so please bear with me as we all do our best to help students succeed.\***

## Student and Parent Signature Page

Students, I want you to know that your success is important to me. In order to be successful, my expectations need to be clear. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me in class.

Please initial next to following:

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read the syllabus, and I fully understand Mrs. Wheeler's expectations of me.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to do my best to meet Mrs. Wheeler's expectations.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read and understand the policies and procedures.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Parents/Guardians, please review the syllabus with your child. I truly believe that parental support is a critical component in a student's success. I hope this syllabus gives you an idea of what to expect this year. If you have any questions, please feel free to send an email to [lonna.wheeler@hcbe.net](mailto:lonna.wheeler@hcbe.net).

Please choose one of the following pertaining to the classroom library policy:

- Yes, I have read the classroom library policy and give permission for my child to check out books from Mrs. Wheeler's classroom library.
- No, I do not want my child to check out books from Mrs. Wheeler's classroom.

I also ask that you provide an email address and phone number for contact. I will use email as the preferred method of contact.

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_