



PROVISO MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY

English I – Survey of Literature

Mrs. Foti / sfoti@pths209.org

Room 316

Course Description:

According to the Oxford American Dictionary, “survey” means “to look closely and thoroughly at something.” Survey of Literature at PMSA, as its name suggests, is therefore a close and thorough study of English at the 9th grade level. The course provides students with the basic foundations for studying literature by focusing on six particular areas: reading, writing, literature, grammar, vocabulary, and listening and speaking.

The course is grouped into five instructional units designed to take approximately 6-8 weeks to complete. These units will expose students to a wide variety of literature from multiple genres (novels, short stories, informational text, poetry, and plays). While studying each unit, students will discuss and analyze essential questions and develop their answers to those questions based on the texts they explore and the writing they undertake.

Students will be able to:

- Read literature from a variety of sources and analyze, synthesize, and evaluate the connections between what they read and the context in which the material was written.
- Incorporate appropriate grammar, spelling, usage, and punctuation in all public work.
- Participate in discussion by listening thoughtfully to others and presenting their own ideas cogently and persuasively.
- Write sentences of increasing maturity and complexity.
- Write essays that demonstrate a logical progression of ideas and clear coherence between ideas.
- Participate in the process of writing from the inception of ideas to revision.
- Develop a personal style and voice, varying it according to the needs of the subject and audience.

Anchor Texts & Themes:

Unit 1 – ESTABLISHING IDENTITY: *The Absolutely True Story of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie

Unit 2 – PITFALLS OF TEMPTATION: *The Odyssey* by Homer

Unit 3 – POWER AND LOSS OF INNOCENCE: *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

Unit 4 – THE ROLE OF FATE: *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare

Unit 5 – PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou

Classroom Guidelines:

- ✓ Respect yourself
- ✓ Respect others, including classmates and authority figures
- ✓ Respect the classroom

Rules

All classroom rules coincide with those of Proviso Math and Science Academy, which are delineated in the student handbook. Refusal to obey these rules will result in the appropriate consequences.

Attendance

A major part of a student's grade depends on attendance. Without being present in class, a student will be unable to obtain, learn, and master the material needed to receive a passing grade. Being present in class will help students complete assignments successfully and perform well on course assessments.

Tardiness to Class

Being on time to class is of the utmost importance, and one's punctuality is a sign of respect. Students should be in their seats with necessary class materials ready when the bell rings.

Preparation

A student is considered prepared for class if he/she is in the classroom at the start of class with assigned homework completed. Additionally, preparation includes bringing classroom materials daily, including not only homework and reading material, but basic supplies as well. A student may not leave the classroom to retrieve any such materials from a locker.

Supply List

- Pens/pencils (Red; blue or black)
- Composition notebook
- Folder or binder
- Yellow highlighter
- Regular notebook
- Loose-leaf paper

Cheating

Cheating means "a deception for the profit of yourself." Therefore, taking answers from others, whether the answers are offered or not, is cheating and will not be tolerated.

Plagiarism is defined as unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work. At any time, plagiarized work will result in an automatic failure of the assignment and possible disciplinary actions taken by school administration.

Instructional Philosophy:

Students need to be engaged and actively involved in their own growth and learning. Building relationships and increasing motivation is a critical aspect of that process. Helping students understand and celebrate their own ability creates an environment where the students feel valued, and they begin to feel a sense of ownership in their education. Celebrating each child's diversity in terms of culture and ability allows students to value and feel good about their special gifts while developing an appreciation for and acceptance of differences in others.

Major Projects:

Each of the five course units will culminate in a final project or essay that demonstrates understanding of concepts and content, as well as progression towards mastery of literacy skills.

Re-Engagement Guidelines:

Struggling students are encouraged to make before or after school appointments with me for additional instruction. They are also encouraged to take advantage of after-school and Saturday tutoring in the LRC. Every effort will be made to get struggling students back on track.

Instructional Delivery:

Students will be engaged in instruction through a combination of direct instruction and small cooperative learning groups. Students will have the opportunity to have guided practice and independent practice while working towards mastery of higher order thinking skills.

Methods of Assessments:

Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their application and mastery of literacy skills through a variety of assessments, including whole class and small group discussions, journaling, writing assignments, and quizzes. **All final drafts of major written assignments are to be typed and must adhere to standard MLA format, unless otherwise specified.** Each assignment, project, quiz, and paper will be awarded points. A student's grade for each of these categories will be based on the percentage of points achieved out of the total possible. The grading scale is as follows:

92 – 100	A
91 – 84	B
76 – 83	C
70 – 75	D
0 – 69	F

Category Weighting

ENGLISH SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS	40 %
FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS	30 %
SKILLS PRACTICE	20 %
PARTICIPATION	10 %

Using PowerSchool, students and parents can view and monitor student attendance, grades, and academic performance. Each parent or guardian can register for PowerSchool online at <http://www.pths209.org/District/NF/Parents/ParentRegform.asp>. Parents will then be issued a username and password that will allow them to view their students' information.

Make-up Policy:

When students have an excused absence, it is their responsibility to find out what assignments they have missed from classmates or the teacher. Students are encouraged (when possible) to contact the teacher via email while they are out to begin work on what they are missing in class, so they may submit their work as soon as they return to class. Students will also be assigned a "study buddy," someone whom they can contact as well for missing information and assignments. The number of days with an excused absence will determine how many days a student has to make-up the missed assignments. Late assignments while a student is in class or has an unexcused absence WILL NOT be accepted; long term assignments such as papers or major projects will receive a 10% deduction for every day the assignment or project is late.

SIGNATURES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: English 1

Please sign below after you have read the above guidelines.

Student Name _____ Period _____

Student Signature _____

Student Email Address _____

Parent/Guardian1

Name _____

Signature _____

BEST Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Parent/Guardian 2

Name _____

Signature _____

BEST Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Student: Please tear off this page and hand it in by Friday, August 25, 2016 in order to receive 10 points toward your grade.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AT LEAST ONE PARENT EMAIL ADDRESS, THIS SHEET WILL NOT COUNT TOWARD YOUR GRADE AND WILL BE RETURNED.

MAKE SURE THAT YOUR EMAIL ADDRESSES AND INFORMATION IS LEGIBLE! If not, this sheet will be returned to you and you will lose points!