**ENGLISH 10:**

Welcome to ENGLISH 10 for the 2014 – 2015 school year! During the course of the year this class will study the English language and its uses; most specifically the writing process. In addition we will read and discuss various works of literature, from short stories to dramatic plays to poems and at least one Shakespearean drama. You will be required to keep an organized binder which will help you in your own writing as well as assist you in studying for literary tests and quizzes. Your grade will reflect the amount of work you put into the class. I have no doubt that you will find the assignments creative, helpful, and most importantly fun!

**SUPPLIES:**

1. 3 Ring binder
   1. 5 dividers
      1. *Writer’s Toolbox (Notes, Journals, Grammar / Spelling practice, Writing Process)),*
      2. *Literary Elements & Devices (Excerpts and examples in writing, definitions; practice),*
      3. *Literature Units (Notes, Study guides and questions, author data, written responses),*
      4. *Tests & Quizzes,(Unit exams, multiple choice questions, test taking strategies)*
      5. *Writing Projects (Exam practice essays, Research paper process, and misc. writings.)*
   2. Loose leaf paper
2. 2 black or blue pens (**ALL** graded assignments are to be completed in blue/black ink)
3. 1 red pen
4. Agenda planner
5. Text Book / Novel *(To be provided by the instructor)*

**GENERAL RULES & EXPECTATIONS:**

1. Be in your seat and ready to work with necessary supplies before the bell rings at the start of class.
2. Stay seated until the bell rings at the end of class.
3. Respect your fellow classmates, teachers, guests, and visitors.
4. Use only positive and acceptable language in the classrooms and the hallways.
5. Listen to directions and instructions actively; asking questions when appropriate.

**ATTENDANCE:**

You are expected to attend class each and every day unless you have a valid excuse accepted by the Attendance Office. If an assignment is due on a day when you are absent it is due at the start of the next class the day you return to school. If an assignment is due and you miss class without a valid excuse you will receive a grade of a zero (0) for that assignment. When you are absent it is your responsibility to find out what you may have missed during your absence. This includes all notes, handouts, and homework assignments.

You are expected to be seated before the bell at the start of class, ready to work. Additionally you are expected to be seated until the bell dismisses you from class. If you are not seated at the start of class you will be marked as coming to class late. After three of these *lates* you will be marked absent and will earn a teacher consequence. Please do not be late without a pass and be ready to work the entire period.

**FIRE DRILLS:**

During a fire drill, when the bell sounds, proceed in an orderly fashion to the designated exit. When walking the halls remain silent so as to hear any announcements that come over the public address system. Once outside you must remain with your class and your teacher. I must take attendance once outside. If I do not see you in the immediate area you will be marked absent for the day and incur a consequence.

**HOMEWORK & ASSIGNMENTS:**

All homework assignments will use the heading as seen on this syllabus. All homework assignments will be collected before the start of class on the day it is due. All homework assignments will be in blue or black ink. Homework will NOT be accepted in pencil. No homework will be accepted late, unless you were absent. Major projects will be accepted late with a penalty of -10% for every day late. Major projects will be explained with a due date in advance. Homework that was due during your absence will be due the next day you return to school, if not turned in, the assignment becomes a zero.

If a student “skips” class or is truant from school for any reason the students receives a grade of zero (0) for all assignments due that day.

**GRADING:**

There are three (3) categories of grades.

1. **Major Grades (40%) –** such as essays, unit tests, individual and group projects and will be announced in advance for students to prepare. Individual essays that students take home to complete will count **twice** toward their Major Grade percentage. However, in many instances the student may **resubmit** the work after making individual arrangements with the instructor. The original grade will count once and the resubmission grade will count once. Re-submissions must be completed in a timely fashion, otherwise this offer is withdrawn.
2. **Minor Grades (30%) –** such as quizzes, reading checks and in-class assessments.
3. **Homework (10%) –** such as nightly written assignments or reading selections will be checked the following day(s) through questions, written responses, or informal discussion and participation.
4. **Regents Task Practice (20%) –** Modeled after the NYS Regents English Language Arts exam. This practice task essay(s) will test reading comprehension, writing and time management skills.

No assignment will be accepted late without a legal excuse (see above). Major writing projects may be submitted late with a penalty of – 10% / per day late (up to - 30%). Major writing projects will be discussed and announced well in advance.

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES:**

Students are not permitted to use cell/smart phones, iPods, MP3 players, recorders; ear-buds or headphones or any unknown or unapproved (teacher or District) electronic device during instructional time; inside the classroom. Should a student violate this policy the student will incur an immediate discipline referral and the electronic device will be confiscated from the student’s possession and turned over to Administration for disciplinary consequences.

**CONFERENCES:**

The instructor will allow a few minutes at the end of each class period for students’ individual comments or concerns. This time is provided for questions, getting started on homework assignments, studying notes, etc. It is expected that all students will remain seated and quietly working or conferencing with other students or meeting with the instructor.

However, it is advisable for the student to meet with the instructor before or after school in room 306. More time and privacy are available during those times. Please refer to “Office Hours” posted in the classroom or on the class website. Although students may drop in at any time, it is understood that their needs may not be accommodated without an appointment.

**It is the responsibility of each student to make the instructor aware of his/her specific, individual needs, concerns, and/or problems as they arise, and if possible to propose solutions. The instructor is better able to accommodate these special circumstances if he is aware of them in advance and/or reminded of them.**

**Finally, the list that follows identifies behaviors you can demonstrate that result in success:**

1. Get to know what the instructor expects, his procedures and priorities.
2. Come to class with necessary materials, and in rare cases where an item must be borrowed, make arrangements *before* the start of class (with a fellow classmate if possible).
3. Respect the needs, feelings, personal space, and property of all others, both in and out of the classroom.
4. Use your time wisely; start the task promptly and stay on task until it’s completed.
5. Know what the task or purpose/goal is for each assignment.
6. Know both the format and content of major grade assignments early enough to make the deadline.
7. Expect the unexpected and plan for it.
8. Analyze how you contributed to causing a disappointing situation and brainstorm for behaviors you have control over that could produce a better result in the future.
9. Analyze your progress and keep a record of your grades (both good and bad).
10. Go to the instructor as soon as you realize or even anticipate a problem in performing a task or meeting a deadline.
11. Attend class regularly and participate actively and often.
12. Establish a relationship with at least one reliable classmate who will act as your “eyes and ears” and messenger when you are absent.
13. Keep an organized, complete, and easy to use notebook, which will serve as a review book and an aide to absent students as well as you.
14. Do one activity at a time, whenever possible. For example, do nothing but listen when directions are being given.

PUTTING IN YOUR BEST EFFORT, PARTICIPATING IN CLASS DISCUSSIONS AND DOING THE ASSIGNMENTS WILL HELP YOU TO BE PREPARED FOR YOUR FUTURE. NOT DEALING WITH THE SKILLS BEING PRESENTED WILL MEAN FAILURE, ULTIMATELY ENDANGERING YOUR GRADUATION. I WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SEE THAT ENGLISH 10 HELPS TO PREPARE YOU FOR SUCCESS, AND IF YOU DO THE SAME YOU WILL BE SUCCESSFUL!

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have read the following course outline and

(Signature of student)

understand the rules and the expectations that Mr. Hodgson has for me while I am enrolled in the class.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have read the following course outline and

(Signature of Parent or Guardian)

understand the rules and the expectations that Mr. Hodgson has for my child while he/she is enrolled in the class.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date