Course Description:
The English 9 program is comprised of a course focused on the SOL standards of reading, writing, research, media literacy, and speaking. This preparatory year for high school English focuses on enhancing comprehension and higher order thinking as its primary goals.

To reach that end, different reading genres and text structures are studied. While investigating each literary form, students focus on improving reading comprehension skills, accumulating vocabulary, following character development, looking at structural aspects of the texts, and examining thematic trends.

The goal of English 9 is to introduce a diverse group of English students to a common set of reading, speaking and language standards through various texts/materials. During the course of the year, students will study and analyze texts in five genres: short stories, fiction novel, nonfiction, drama, and poetry. Students will also be exposed to English language concepts and cultural knowledge such as idiomatic speech, rhetorical devices, and literary terms. As Osbourn High School has adopted a one-to-one program, students will be expected to use technology to enhance their learning. Students will learn to think critically about information and use interpretation and analysis to gain meaning.

Texts and Writing Structures Covered:

7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens  
Class Novel/Independent Novel  
To Kill a Mockingbird (Honors)  
Assorted Short Stories and Poems  
Narrative, Expository, Persuasive, and Reflective Writing

PREPAREDNESS:
At this point in your academic career, it is necessary for you to be prepared for each day in class. Your preparedness will be self-assessed using the Classroom Community Rubric.

Students will be asked to bring their “Necessary Items” to class every day which include:
- Laptops (charged and w/charger)
- Writing utensils
- A notebook or lined paper
- Reading materials we are using in class. All students are expected to have an independent reading book with them while working on independent reading projects.
Discussion preferences
While this course focuses on reading and writing, it is expected that students participate in classroom
discussions and debates. The time we are given to interact, think, postulate, argue, agree and theorize
brings context and volume that will benefit your reading comprehension and writing. Students are expected
to contribute and be respectful to others during this time and are encouraged to take notes.

Course Policies
MLA will be the format your papers will be written in. In class, we will go over elements of MLA and what it looks like in
your papers.
1. A lesson and handout on WHAT PLAGIARISM IS will be provided. From that point on, evidence of plagiarism
and/or cheating will result in disciplinary action.
2. Students who miss class need to make up all work assigned. First check Google Classroom and see if you can
keep up with the information and complete the assignments. If a student knows they will be missing class for a
project or trip, Mrs. Rice needs to be notified by the student in advance.
3. Homework will only be given as an extension of what is being learned in class, for studying, and to work on
major projects. Please observe the assignments, due dates, and readings given by Mrs. Rice out of respect to
your peers and to yourself.

Technology Expectations
1. Technological devices (iPads/Pods/Phones, etc.) will be taken in accordance with the school’s policy. I will
allow you to listen to music on your laptop from time to time, but do not ASK me to allow music. When music is
allowed:
   a. during independent writing (never during reading)
   b. If your music cannot be so loud as to disturb others around you; if I can hear it, it is disruptive.
2. Malfunctioning technology is not an excuse for missing assignments. Students can always use the computers
in the library during Eagle Block, before school and after school.
3. It is understood that every student upholds the expectations of the Responsible User Agreement set by
Osbourn High School when posting or leading a discussion.

Grading Procedures
A range of weighted percentages is provided for each category so departments or grade level teams can individualize
the calculation formula to meet the curricular needs of different subjects. Teachers will use a variety of assessments
and assignments to evaluate student learning.

40% = Major Assessments/Assignments: Grades that are summative in nature – (i.e., division-wide unit assessments,
chapter tests, spelling/vocabulary tests, reports, projects, portfolios, student exhibits, lab projects, oral presentations,
final drafts of compositions, etc.) Minimum of at least three summative grades per quarter are required.
30% = Quizzes
20% = Classwork
10% = Homework

Unit Test Testing Windows
Unit 1: Short Story 9/5 - 10/18 (16 G & B Days)
Testing Window 9/29-10/18
Unit 2: Novel 10/19 - 1/16 (24 G & B Days)
Testing Window 12/13-1/16
Unit 3: NonFiction 1/17 - 2/27 (13 G & B Days)
Testing Window 2/6 - 2/27
OHS Make-up Work Policy
In the event of an absence, the student is responsible for making up any missed assignments. When a student is absent, the teacher will record an “Incomplete” (I) for the assignments missed due to the absence. If an unexcused absence becomes excused through the attendance office within 72 hours (3 school days) of the absence, the student will be given the opportunity to complete the missed assignments for full credit. The due date for completion of the missed assignments will be determined at the teacher's discretion. Assignments missed due to an unexcused absence will receive a grade of zero (0) may be assigned zero at discretion of teacher and administrator.

English Department Late Work Policy
Students may submit work late for a half credit deduction. Late work will be accepted for two weeks after the due date.
English 9 Course Agreement

Students, parents and teachers each have the same goal--to see each student succeed. Together, we can make 9th grade English successful this year.

After reading the course outline and syllabus shared on Google Classroom, please fill out the information, sign below, and return it next class for a homework grade. Please refer to the syllabus and course outline for clarity through the school year as a reference.

Student: I have read and understand the material in the syllabus and course outline. I agree to the following expectations and procedures presented.

Print name: ____________________________________________
Sign name: ____________________________________________
Email*: _____________________________________________

(*)Make sure you print legibly

Is there anything you would like me to know about you or how you learn best?

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Parent: I have read the preceding information and understand that my son/daughter is responsible for following the expectations and procedures presented. I agree to remind him or her of this obligation.

Print name: ____________________________________________
Sign name: ____________________________________________
Phone: _______________________________________________
Email*: _____________________________________________

(*)Make sure you print legibly

Is there anything that you would like me to know about your son/daughter?

_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________