Tappan Zee High School

15 Dutch Hill Road
Orangeburg, New York 10962

# *September 2013*

*Dear Parents and Members of the Class of 2017,*

*We welcome you to Tappan Zee High School and wish you the most productive, positive, and challenging experiences possible. The English 9 Honors course has been developed to provide you with an even greater opportunity to grow and excel as readers, writers and learners. We hope that you take full advantage of the opportunities and challenges that are ahead of you, and we look forward to working with you to attain the highest level of learning possible.*

*The course will focus on expository writing and literary analysis at an accelerated level. We anticipate that you will further develop your reading and writing skills so that enjoyment of the written word becomes a lifetime pleasure. As students in an honors course, you will be held to certain expectations. We expect that you have a love of reading, welcome the opportunity to analyze challenging literature, and are open to abstract discussion about in-depth concepts. Oftentimes, the joy in literature lies within the close reading and analysis that occurs as a result of examination and critical thinking. Therefore, your active participation is essential for your individual success as well as that of the class.*

*We also anticipate that these reading skills will translate to more analytical and sophisticated writing. This is a process that often calls for the ability to apply what is gleaned from the text in order to produce coherent, supported, and well-organized analysis. This is an exercise that takes thought, time, and frequent revision regardless of the student’s level of proficiency. We aim to facilitate your learning and to provide support and constructive criticism along the way in order for you to reach your greatest potential.*

*We are eager to help you and to offer guidance as needed. Office hours for your individual teacher are posted in each classroom. Please come in whenever you need help or clarification. The attached outline is an attempt to answer your questions about expectations and requirements. Please inquire should anything need further explanation.*

*We wish you a rewarding and enlightening experience, and we look forward to a great year together.*

*Sincerely,*

***The Ninth Grade English Honors Team***

**ENGLISH 9H**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**EXPECTATIONS:**

This honors course begins the four year English sequence which includes the New York State Regents Exam during your junior year. This course requires students to do extensive work reading, discussing, and writing about literature.

**Literature:**  Students will read a selection of short stories and poems from Prentice Hall. In addition to discussion of the summer reading titles, *Our Town* and *Of Mice and Men*, at least four of the following works will be read and analyzed in class: *To Kill a Mockingbird, Oedipus, Great Expectations, The Odyssey, Jane Eyre, The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet, Inherit the Wind, and Twelve Angry Men.* In addition, students will read independent works in a variety of genres.

**Composition:** A major objective of this course is the development of expository writing skills. Paragraphs and essays, both timed writing and full writing process pieces, will be assigned frequently. Students will be expected to write well-structured essays of literary analysis.

Other curriculum areas will include vocabulary development, grammar, listening and speaking. Extension and enrichment activities will be offered to all interested students. Class participation and homework will be 20% of the student’s grade.

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

1. A large packet of loose-leaf paper in a three ring binder, to be replenished as necessary
2. Dividers to separate different sections in the binder
3. Post-Its
4. Highlighter
5. Colored pen for annotating
6. Portable computer storage device (ex. jump drive or flash drive)
7. Mini-stapler
8. One pack of 3x5 Index Cards
9. Any other materials per teacher’s request: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**EVALUATION:**

Grades are determined as follows:

Class participation and homework 20%

Writing assignments, tests, quizzes, and projects 80%

Assignments will be weighed according to the amount of time allowed for each. Unit tests are weighted more heavily than quizzes.

Assignments will be required to be submitted electronically through TurnItIn.com. Instructions regarding this will be supplied with the corresponding assignments.

**FINAL GRADE CALCULATION FOR THE YEAR**-

**21% each quarter average + 16% FINAL EXAM grade**

**CLASS PARTICIPATION INCLUDES:**

1. Regular attendance.

2. Arriving to class on time.

3. Arriving with all necessary, organized materials (homework, binder, books, pens, etc).

4. Attention and attitude during class. Students are expected to demonstrate respect for teachers and fellow students. Students are expected to work only on English assignments during class. Any other materials used (homework for other classes, make-up, electronic devices, magazines, food, etc.) will be confiscated and addressed as per school policy.

5. Taking clear notes for each period.

6. Positive participation in both small and large group discussions. This includes both speaking and listening and presenting group projects.

7. Being responsible for finding out and making up missed work due to absences or lateness.

**POLICIES CONCERNING ABSENCES:**

1. Any work previously assigned is due on the day you return. Any test previously assigned **must** be taken on your return, in accordance with school policy.

2. You are responsible for making up the classwork and homework assigned during your absence. This work must be made up and submitted within two days after your return. **It is your responsibility to find out exactly what you have missed and to complete it** **without having to be reminded.**

3. **NO WORK OR TEST MAY BE MADE UP IF THE ABSENCE IS A CUT. YOU WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OF ZERO FOR THESE ASSIGNMENTS.**

4. Any absence for school-related reasons (music lessons, field trips, rehearsals, appointments with nurse, guidance and/or another teacher) must be **approved in advance.**

5. When you are absent, call another member of your class to get your assignments.

**POLICIES CONCERNING LATE WORK:**

1. Homework: Homework will be assigned almost every night and is due at the beginning of class. **Full credit will be given only for homework completed on time.** Once a unit is completed, no late homework will be accepted for that unit.

2. Writing Assignments: Essays and other writing assignments must be completed by the start of class on or before the due date. If you are in school but miss English on the date an essay is due, **you are still responsible** for handing the essay to your teacher on that day. If you are absent on the date that the essay is due, you must hand in the essay on the day you return.

3. No work will be accepted after the unit closes.

**PENALTIES:** 5 points will be deducted for each day the essay is late.

**CAUTION: COPIED OR PLAGIARIZED WORK WILL RESULT IN A ZERO**

 **FOR ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.**

##  TALKING OR LOOKING AROUND DURING TESTING

 **SITUATIONS WILL RESULT IN A ZERO FOR ALL PARTIES**

 **CONCERNED.**

**CAUTION: WORK SUBMITTED IN ANY OTHER COURSE IN THIS BUILDING**

 **MAY NOT BE SUBMITTED IN THIS COURSE. LIKEWISE, WORK**

 **SUBMITTED IN THIS COURSE MAY NOT BE SUBMITTED IN ANY**

 **OTHER COURSE. DOING SO WILL RESULT IN A ZERO FOR ALL**

 **PARTIES INVOLVED.**

**\*\*\*\*\*Students are responsible for tracking deadlines and assignments and should not anticipate teacher reminders. Students are strongly encouraged to utilize office hours in order to discuss assignments and progress.**

This information is presented to avoid any future problems or misunderstandings.

We wish you success in this course.

### If you ever need any extra help do not hesitate to ask. Regular office hours are posted in

### each classroom. Additional appointments are available during some periods of the school

day.

\*\***Please keep the copy of the course requirements for your own reference and return this**

**signed portion to your English teacher.**

September 2013

Declaration:

I have read the above requirements and understand my responsibilities in English 9 Honors. I have also read the Student Handbook and understand the school’s policies.

Student’s signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

I have read the attached requirements for English 9 Honors.

Parent/Guardian’s signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

Daytime telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_