

English I

Ms. Rieckman or Ms. R

Contact

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701-356-2050 x9325

Office Location & Hours

Office: 205H during 7th period, or by email / Schoology message

Need extra English help? Stop by 205 H during P.7, or contact me via email/Schoology message

Course Description:

English I focuses on four key elements of Language Arts: literature, writing, speaking, and critical thinking. The class is designed to help improve a student's ability to think critically about a wide variety of literature, poetry, short stories, a drama, and novels. It aims to strengthen a student's ability to use written language and reinforces their ability to prepare as well as deliver oral presentations / speeches. In addition to daily tasks, students are required to read library books of their choice.

Year At A Glance: BOOK LOVE In this semester-long activity, students are required to read multiple books of their choice—inside and outside the classroom. During hybrid learning, students are expected to read 30 minutes of a book of choice on online days, completing any assessments to demonstrate reading (e.g., Flipgrid responses)

Semester 1: *Introduction Speech/Video, Short Stories, Mythology, Fiction Literature Circle*

- **Semester 2:** *Drama, Holocaust Study in Non-Fiction Literature Circles, Multi-Genre Project*

This plan is tentative and subject to change. For the most up-to-date plan, check Schoology or the live course calendar: English I Calendar (live link – will be updated throughout the year)

PACKER PRIDE ... “Be a member of the Pack”

Collaboration	Compassion	Responsibility
Learners: * Recognize the value of and follow the rules of the classroom and school * Cooperate and work flexibly in partnerships, small, or large groups * Share responsibility and interact respectfully to be productive both individually and as a team * Understand ideas, opinions, and skills of others	Learners: * Show kindness and empathy * Consider information from different viewpoints with respect * Recognize their own and others' perspectives and values	Learners: * Follow expectations for organization and participation * Engage curiosity and collaboration, taking pride in completing work well

Grading Scale

A = 90-100 (Distinguished)

B = 80-89 (Proficient)

C = 70-79 (Emerging)

D = 60-69 (Underdeveloped)

F = Below 60 (Incomplete)

Basis for Grade:

Daily work, openers, journals, tests, quizzes, projects, speeches, group activities, participation, effort, responsibility, and critical assessments (must be completed to receive credit).

Engagement:

Engagement is **NOT** a choice. Be prepared to participate--If you prepare by completing work, you will always have an answer to offer up.

Citizenship grade: As a part of the PACKER learning community, you will be required to ACT with INTEGRITY and follow the CCRs. You will be receiving points that you must keep to demonstrate that you are following the PACKER expectations, if not you will lose those points and documentation will be made in the Power School. Being a PACKER is a privilege so try EVERYDAY to be the BEST PACKER you can be! *Please refer to rubric in Schoology if questions.*

Make Up, Late, and Missing Work

Be ready to turn in assignments on time (use Schoology and my posted lesson plans to help with this!)

- Life happens. If you have an extenuating circumstance, communicate with me. I am human too!
- Students are expected to complete ALL assignments. All late work is due by the end of the unit.
 - **LATE WORK:** If you are unable to finish an assignment on time, you **MUST** email your teacher (using template provided on Schoology or down below) **BEFORE** the due date. [Late Work Email Template](#)
- Late work will be entered as a “0” until handed in, and will affect your citizenship grade
- If you are absent, it is your responsibility to check what you missed and complete any assignments. Work for absences related to activities must be completed **before** the scheduled absence.

Classroom Policies

This class will follow all guidelines and policies laid out by West Fargo High School / WFPS, including policies for food and drink, cellphones, and attendance:

- **WFHS Food and Drink Policy:**
 - No food in hallways
 - This includes Period 1 and Period 2 breakfasts
 - Includes all lunches (purchased from school, brought from home, fast food, take-out, etc.)
 - Food in classrooms must be provided by teacher(s)
 - All drinks must be in a container with non-spill lid
 - Food or drinks NOT in a non-spill lid will be directed to be thrown away
- **WFHS Cellphone Policy:**
 - Students shall not use any electronic device that in any way disrupts or detracts from the educational environment. Electronic devices are inclusive of cell phones, smart watches, earbuds, and school-issued devices.
 - Cell phones must be out-of-sight and out-of-use from the first bell to the last bell of all classes, including during study halls and within flexed learning spaces that are an extension of a classroom.
 - Photographing or recording of another person should be used for educational purposes as defined by the teacher. Any use of an electronic device for other than educational purposes will result in a consequence.
 - For additional information, see the full policy in the student handbook, or listed at the end of the digital copy of the syllabus on Schoology.
- **WFHS Attendance Policy:**
 - It is expected that you are in class and on time each day. If you arrive to class after the designated start time for class, you will be marked tardy. Excessive tardiness to a class period will result in a UV for the class period.
 - Every fifth unexcused tardy will convert to an unexcused absence and the student will be assigned one hour of detention. This is per class period and will adhere to the attendance policy.
 - For additional info, see the full policy in the student handbook, or listed at the end of the syllabus.

Cheating and Plagiarism:

The English department recognizes a difference between intentional cheating and accidental plagiarism. Our common definition includes:

- Cheating is the *intentional* use of someone else's work being presented as one's own work (i.e. submitting another student's essay).
- Accidental plagiarism is the misrepresentation of another's work as one's own (i.e. forgetting a works cited page; not attributing a quotation to the author; not understanding the correct method of paraphrasing a quotation).

The cheating policy follows the WFHS student handbook. This includes a zero for the assignment, a PACK referral, and notification of the parent/guardian and administrator/counselor. Should accidental plagiarism occur, the critical and/or common assessment will be returned to the student for resubmission.

For more information, see the full [Cheating and Plagiarism policy](#).

Student: I understand and agree to follow the rules and expectations outlined by Ms. Rieckman. If at any time I do not follow by these rules and expectations for work and/ or behavior in class, I accept that there will be logical consequences because of my actions.

(Your First and Last Name-printed)

(Your Signature)

Dear Parents/ Guardians:

Your student has been introduced to our classroom expectations regarding course work and behavior. Thank you for taking the time to read the syllabus and classroom management pages as well. Please sign below to indicate you have reviewed the syllabus. In addition, please share how I can best communicate with you (phone, email, etc.). If there are any changes to contact information than what is listed in PowerSchool, please update that below.

If at any time you have questions, please contact me via email (srieckman@west-fargo.k12.nd.us) or call West Fargo High School (701-356-2050 x 9325). I am looking forward to a wonderful semester in English!

(Parent/Guardian Name (s) –printed)

(Parent/ Guardian signature(s))

I prefer to be contacted by:

Phone

Email

Other: _____

If your contact information is different than what is listed in PowerSchool, please list any changes, or contact the office.

West Fargo High School Cell Phone Policy

West Fargo Public Schools holds high expectations for student behavior, academic integrity, and responsible use of existing and emerging technology, such as cell phones, iPods, iPads, laptops, and other personal electronic devices capable of transmitting data or images. Students who possess and/or use such devices at school or school-sponsored events shall demonstrate the greatest respect for the educational environment. Standards for responsible use at school, on busses, or at school activities:

- Students shall not use any electronic device that in any way disrupts or detracts from the educational environment. Electronic devices are inclusive of cell phones, smart watches, earbuds, and school-issued devices.
- Cell phones must be out-of-sight and out-of-use from the first bell to the last bell of all classes, including during study halls and within flexed learning spaces that are an extension of a classroom.
- Cell phones may be used appropriately and respectfully in common spaces during non-instructional times, including passing time, the student lunch period, and before and after school.
- It is the student's responsibility to secure their electronic devices to show care for their technology devices and personal information. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items or individual service plan charges related to use of electronic devices.
- Students are expected to respect the network and adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) when using school-issued and personal electronic devices. Students will be expected to access the district's Wi-Fi network via their iPad during designated school activities unless connections are unavailable. Wi-Fi is not available for students' personal electronic devices.
- Photographing or recording of another person should be used for educational purposes as defined by the teacher. Any use of an electronic device for other than educational purposes will result in a consequence. Messages and photos on an electronic device are subject to viewing by administration given reasonable suspicion of a crime or school infraction.
- The USE of cellular phones or other personal electronic devices is strictly prohibited in locker rooms and restrooms.

West Fargo High School Procedure:

- The first time a phone is delivered to the Main Office due to an infraction of this policy, it will be returned to the student at the end of their instructional day.
- The second time a phone is delivered to the Main Office due to an infraction of this policy, the student must check the phone into the Main Office before the instructional day begins for the next five school days. Even if the student claims to be leaving the phone at home, they must report to the Main Office at the start of each day to check in with their administrator. The student can pick up the device at the end of their instructional day.
- The third time a phone is delivered to the Main Office due to an infraction of this policy, a family meeting will be scheduled by the student's administrator. Until the time of the family meeting, the student must check the phone into the Main Office before the instructional day begins. Even if the student claims to be leaving the phone at home, they must report to the Main Office at the start of each day to check in with their administrator. The student can pick up the device at the end of their instructional day. At the family meeting, further ramifications will be determined.
- Additional violations will be addressed by the discretion of the administrative team.

West Fargo High School Attendance Policy

The School Board has adopted the following policy regarding attendance:

"Students must not be absent more than 10 times from each semester course in which they are enrolled if they are to receive credit that will count toward graduation. Exceptions which may be approved include illness substantiated by a statement from a doctor, supporting a family, or other special circumstances approved by the principal."

Note: Students are only allowed 5 days absent in a block course per semester due to the daily extended learning time.

The attendance standard indicated above is a minimum course requirement for successfully completing all courses. When students' absences go beyond the required limits, school administration will decide if the student will stay in the class or be dropped from the class, possibly assigning the student to a study area for the remainder of the semester during the period they were scheduled for that class. Credits lost due to poor attendance may be made up in the regular school program, in summer school, or via online credit recovery.

Students who are not yet sixteen years of age and do not attend school regularly will be considered truant and will be referred to the juvenile authorities as the law requires. NORTH DAKOTA LAW "15-34-01 School's Compulsory Attendance Every parent, guardian, or other person who resides in any school district and has control over an educable child of any age of seven years to sixteen years shall send or take to a public school each year during the entire time such school is in session." NORTH DAKOTA LAW '15-1-20-03 (section #4) states, "Any person who fails to ensure that a child is in attendance as required by this chapter is guilty of an infraction for a first offense and is guilty of a class B misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense."

The following reasons for absences from school will be excused:

- Sickness of student
- Sickness in the student's family necessitating their absence
- Conditions over which the student has no control such as poor weather conditions

The following reasons for absences from school will be excused *and exempt* from counting toward the 10-absence limit:

- Documented medical note (doctor, dentist, etc.) including the date(s) of absence (code: M)
- School-sanctioned activity, field trip, etc. (code: A)
- Emergency situations as determined in collaboration with the school administrator, such as a death in the student's family (code: S)

West Fargo Public Schools recognizes the need to attend school regularly. Therefore, to miss school because of work will result in an unexcused absence.

Families are encouraged to take vacations during school breaks so students will not miss large amounts of class time. If students plan to be absent for some special reason, the students and their parents/guardians must check with the principal or an assistant prior to the absence if possible.

West Fargo High School Procedure:

- 5 absences: Letter 1 is mailed home to families.
- 7 absences: Letter 2 is mailed home to families and the administrator connects with the student.
- 9-10 absences: The administrator connects with the family and the student to establish a plan outlining expectations. If expectations are not met, the student will be dropped from the course(s) at a pre-determined number of days.
 - If the student is passing multiple classes, the connection will be a family meeting including teachers.
 - If the student is not passing multiple classes, the connection can be a phone call.

West Fargo High School Tardy and Unexcused Absence Policy

Every fifth unexcused tardy will convert to an unexcused absence and the student will be assigned one hour of detention. This is per class period and will adhere to the attendance policy.

To convert the fifth unexcused tardy to an unexcused absence, the teacher of the class will record the fifth unexcused tardy as UV in PowerSchool instead of UT and include a note in the comments (5th tardy, 10th tardy, etc.). This will direct the Main Office to assign the hour of detention and help address any family concerns (as a phone call will automatically go home).

Students who skip classes will be given time in detention to make up for at least every minute they miss (1 hour for regular classes, 30 minutes for advisory, etc.). A pattern of skipping will result in a meeting to consider educational alternatives for the student.

Students marked “unverified” will be recorded on a “call down list” at the end of each instructional day. The following day, administrators will connect with students on the list to discuss the absence/assign detention. It is extremely important for attendance to be accurately recorded (changing UVs to UTs if necessary, etc.) to properly inform and not delay this process.

West Fargo High School Absence Policy

When students are absent, a parent/guardian must call the office before 9:00 AM on the day the student is absent and indicate the reason for the absence. If the high school does not receive a phone call, the school will call to inform the parent/guardian that their student is not in school. The bring-a-note-from-home system will not be used. Fake phone calls from someone other than parents/guardians will result in one hour of detention. Students who return to school on time from being absent the day before need not check into the office.

Students who are absent will be reported to the teachers. If the absence is excused, the student will be allowed to make up the work missed and will be given full credit for the work if done within the given period of time, which is at least one day more than the length of the absence. Students who do not complete make-up work on time cannot receive full credit for the work unless otherwise determined by the teacher and administrator.

Students who arrive or return to school after the school day has begun must check into the office, so they know they are here. Students who are absent for only part of a school day should be responsible for assignments for the entire day. Students should contact the teachers whose classes they miss to hand in any assignments that are due and to receive any assignments that may be due the next day. Whenever students are at an appointment or under a doctor's care during an absence from school, they should bring a note from the doctor involved when returning to school, since these days are not considered in the limit of ten absences mentioned in the attendance policy. Students must not in any way alter the excuse provided by the doctor. Any attempt to do so will result in the appropriate administrator calling the clinic and doctor to verify the excuse or to report the altering of the doctor's statement. Parents/guardians will be notified, and detention may be given. Students should access Schoology to find assignments and other information from their classes when absent from school. Each student has a Schoology login and username. If internet access is not available, parents/guardians may call to get work for their child after the second day a student is absent.

If a student is planning to be excused absent a prolonged period of time (such as a family vacation), they must communicate with their administrator and receive a document to record upcoming assignments for their classes. To complete the document, they should connect with each of their teachers, inform them of the upcoming absence and learn about the instruction and assignments they will miss and establish a plan to make it up.