

**English I (Co-Taught)**  
**Ms. Johnson and Ms. Rieckman**

**Contact**

As this is a co-taught class, when reaching out via email, please contact both teachers.

**Ms. Johnson**

[asjohnson@west-fargo.k12.nd.us](mailto:asjohnson@west-fargo.k12.nd.us)

701-356-2050 x9324

**Ms. Rieckman**

[srieckman@west-fargo.k12.nd.us](mailto:srieckman@west-fargo.k12.nd.us)

701-356-2050 x9325

**Office Location & Hours**

Office: 205H

Ms. Johnson Prep: Period 1A & 1B

Ms. Rieckman Prep: Period 4A & 3B

**Need extra English help?**

**Stop by 205H during Period 1A, 4A, 1B or 3B, or contact us 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:**

- **Semester 1:** *Introduction Speech, Short Stories, Mythology, I-Search Research Project, Drama (Romeo & Juliet)*
- **Semester 2:** *Poetry, Resiliency Literature Circle, Holocaust Literature Study, Multi-Genre Project*

**This plan is tentative and subject to change. For the most up-to-date plan, check Schoology/the live course calendar**

PACKER PRIDE ... “Be a member of the Pack”		
Collaboration	Compassion	Responsibility
<p>Learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Recognize the value of and follow the rules of the classroom and school</li> <li>* Cooperate and work flexibly in partnerships, small, or large groups</li> <li>* Share responsibility and interact respectfully to be productive both individually and as a team</li> <li>* Understand ideas, opinions, and skills of others</li> </ul>	<p>Learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Show kindness and empathy</li> <li>* Consider information from different viewpoints with respect</li> <li>* Recognize their own and others’ perspectives and values</li> </ul>	<p>Learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Follow expectations for organization and participation</li> <li>* Engage curiosity and collaboration, taking pride in completing work well</li> </ul>

**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.

**\*\*EVERYONE does EVERYTHING!\*\***

**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 each quarter that you must keep to demonstrate that you are following the PACKER expectations. If you do not follow the expectations, you will lose those points and documentation will be made in the Power School and/or contact home will be made. Being a PACKER is a privilege so try EVERYDAY to be the BEST PACKER you can be! *Please refer to the behavior matrix in Schoology ([or linked here](#)) if you have questions.*

**Make Up, Late, and Missing Work:**

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

- Life happens. If you have an extenuating circumstance, communicate with us—we are human too!
- Students are expected to complete ALL assignments. All late work is due by the end of the quarter.

- **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.

### Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in high school extracurricular activities, learners cannot be failing more than one course and must have zero detention hours. My goal is always to keep grades updated on a weekly basis. Larger projects may take me longer to grade—please keep due dates and grading time in mind when eligibility is of concern to you.

### 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 academic areas, including breakfast / lunches; 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 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.
- **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 (20 minutes) to a class period will result in a UV.
  - 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). This is inclusive of utilizing AI technology to complete a portion or all of an assignment.
- 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](#).

***A note on ChatGPT/AI writing/ etc.:*** AI (artificial intelligence) is an evolving and growing space. I recognize the tools available to us right now will evolve as the school year progresses. And, I fully recognize that it’s ridiculous for teachers to believe technology like this won’t be available to people in the future. However, and this is the important part here, the students in my classroom still need to understand the why and how behind grammatical structures, spelling, sentence variety, and the myriad of other things real writing does. This happens by doing the work and getting “messy” with writing, drafting, and revising. **Therefore, the use of AI in this course will be considered cheating and will have the same consequences as listed above.**

