**English 1 Fundamentals**

Syllabus Ms. Ortiz

Room 159

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**Course Description:**

A) Literature

This course covers various types of literature including drama, poetry, short

stories, and novels. Students will learn elements of plot, character, setting and

theme. Students are taught comprehension skills, which includes recognizing the

main idea, getting facts, summarizing stories, making inferences, interpreting

figurative language, making predictions, and learning how to think and

understand the written word.

Through the use of literature, students’ vocabulary is increased. The vocabulary

skills taught are defining words from context, choosing definitions, using words

in context, and classifying words.

**We will be working from the Edge textbook as well as supplementary novels.**

B) Writing Skills

Students are taught to write cohesive paragraphs, including thesis (power)

sentences, supporting details, and conclusion. They are taught to write for a

variety of purposes with an emphasis on descriptive, narrative, and response to

literature topics. Students are made familiar with the basic essay and composition

structure, including the stages of the writing process: prewriting, drafting,

revising, editing, and publishing.

**Classroom Rules:**

• Be respectful – Our classroom is a safe place in which students have the right

to learn and to feel safe. Discrimination and/or disrespect of any kind will not

be tolerated. We treat everyone with kindness and we are careful of our words

and actions in an effort to ensure that everyone feels comfortable being in this

classroom, sharing their opinion, and asking questions.

• Follow directions first time asked – In this classroom, you will be working on

many different activities. It is of the utmost importance that you listen and follow

the instructions given by the teacher.

• Be prepared – It is your responsibility to bring all of the required materials to

class every day, along with any assignments that are due that day. You will lose

points if you need to leave the classroom to retrieve materials or assignments.

• Be on time – Attendance is extremely important. Also, if you have scheduled a

time to meet with me you need to be in my classroom at that time.

• Be on task – Participate in all lessons and activities by listening, working on

your assignments, contributing to class discussions, and refraining from using

prohibited electronic devices, disrupting with inappropriate chatting, sleeping in

class or having your head down.

**Classroom Procedures:**

• Start working on the Daily Warm-up activity before the tardy bell rings. If you

are not in your seat by the time the tardy bell rings, you will be marked

tardy. There are no exceptions.

• After Daily Warm-up, begin working on classroom assignment.

• Leave all food/drinks (except water) and electronics/cell phones outside of this

classroom. Any electronics/cell phones will be confiscated immediately.

• When you finish any assigned class work, you may begin working on your

homework. Talking and disrupting others is not an option.

**Grading Policy:** Students who do not complete class work assignments on a consistent basis should not expect to pass this class.

• You will receive classroom points for:

* Classroom Behavior
* Warm Up
* Homework
* Classwork and Participation
* Quizzes and Tests
* Essays and Projects

**Grading Scale**

A 90-100%

B 80-89%

C 70-79%

D 60-69%

F 59% and below

**• Cell Phones or iPods (and other electronics): Items will be confiscated the first time they are seen or heard and returned at the end of the period. The second time this occurs, they will be taken to the office.**

I am open to meet at lunch and some days after school. You can email or call me at any time. If you leave a message, I will get back to you within 48 hours.

Have a wonderful year!