

Mrs. Christine Zandstra/Mrs. Amy O'Leary

English 9

Roy C. Ketcham High School

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Welcome to Mrs. Zandstra's and Mrs. O'Leary's 9th grade English class! It is going to be an exciting and challenging year, and we are anxious to begin working with and getting to know all of our students.

Curriculum

The basic format for this class is a reading and writing workshop. The purpose of this model is to address each student's reading and writing challenges and help each student meet his/her individual reading and writing goals. Students will be reading independently-chosen books, as well as small-group and whole-class texts. Students will also be given choice for writing assignment topics.

Supplies

- A binder or folder
- Loose-leaf paper
- Pen/pencil

Please have all supplies by Monday, September 13th. If you have a problem obtaining any of the required supplies, please see one of us.

Grading

Students will be assessed frequently in many different ways including, but not limited to, the following:

Independent Reading/Goals Reader's-Writer's Notebook Reading Responses	Essays Projects/Presentations Collaboration/Participation	Quizzes Homework Timeliness/Preparedness
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Homework

**_____ STUDENTS' STANDING HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT WILL BE TO READ AT LEAST
15 MINUTES EVERY NIGHT AND 45 MINUTES OVER WEEKENDS**

Written overnight homework will be assigned occasionally. Students are expected to complete homework assignments on time. Late work will be accepted.

Independent Reading

Reading is an important lifelong skill that continues to improve with practice. In connection with our district's ninth grade English Language Arts curriculum and the Next Generation NYS Learning Standards, students are expected to read books of their own choosing as the basis for developing their reading skills. Lessons will be devoted to teaching students how to find books that they will enjoy and can be read independently based on each child's reading abilities and interests. Additionally, time will be set aside in class each day for students to read their independent books, and we will regularly conference with them to make sure that they are managing their book choices. So that students get into the habit of reading outside of class regularly, a standing homework assignment will be for students to read their book at least 15 minutes per night (45 minutes over weekends). This means that students are expected to read at least 15 minutes each night, whether or not they have an additional English homework assignment.

Students may choose books from our school library, a public library, the bookstore, home, or from our extensive classroom library, which includes a vast variety of high-interest, award-winning classic and current young adult literature that we have amassed over the last 16 years. Students will keep a log of how many books they read throughout the year. They will set individual reading goals each quarter and monitor their own learning. We encourage you to check in with your child to ask what they are reading and discuss books with them. Let them tell you about their books.

Please understand that we have not read every book that our students will find, and we may forget some details of ones we have read. Therefore, if your child is reading something that has objectionable subject matter to you, please know that we hold your role as parents sacred, and we will work with you and your child to find a more appropriate book.

We want to express our appreciation for all you do to encourage your child to read.