**AP English Language and Composition 2022-2023**

**Mr. Frederick**

**Email:** **george.frederick@wchcs.org**

**Course Description:** Though our endeavors will certainly be diverse, this course is designed with one primary and rather practical goal in mind: earning a score of “3” or better on the AP Exam in English Language and Composition. According to the official AP course description, “An AP English Language and Composition course cultivates the reading and writing skills that students need for college success and for intellectually responsible civic engagement. The course guides students in becoming curious, critical, and responsive readers of diverse texts and becoming flexible, reflective writers of texts addressed to diverse audiences for diverse purposes. The reading and writing students do in the course should deepen and expand their understanding of how written language functions rhetorically: to communicate writers’ intentions and elicit readers’ responses in particular situations.”

**Big Ideas and Enduring Understandings:**

1. Individuals write within a particular situation and make strategic writing choices based on that situation.
2. Writers make claims about subjects, rely on evidence that supports the reasoning that justifies the claim, and often acknowledge or respond to other, possibly opposing, arguments.
3. Writers guide understanding of a text’s lines of reasoning and claims through that text’s organization and integration of evidence.
4. The rhetorical situation informs the strategic choices that writers make.

# **Major Texts:**

*Walden*, Henry Daivd Thoreau

*Young Men and Fire*, Norman Maclean

*An American Childhood*, Annie Dillard

*The Language of Composition*, Renee H. Shea, Lawrence Scanlon, Robin Dissin Aufses

*Everything’s an Argument*,Andrea Lunsford, John J. Ruszkiewicz and Keith Walters

*100 Great Essays,* Robert Diyanni

*Picturing Texts*, Lester Faigley, Diana George, Anna Palchik, Cynthia Self

*In Cold Blood*,Truman Capote

*The Eloquent President: A Portrait of Lincoln Through His Words*: Ronald C. White, Jr.

*They Say / I Say*,Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein

*Easy Writer*, Andrea Lunsford

*Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance,* Robert M. Pirsig

**Assessment Policy:** Your desire to be in this course says much about your dedication as a student. Additionally, you have undoubtedly experienced much success in your schooling. In light of these factors, it is my hope that this course can be one in which the importance of grades (and the discussion of grades) is subordinate to a profound academic and intellectual classroom discourse. Still, it is my professional obligation to you to communicate your level of achievement and your readiness for the AP Exam in May. To these ends, the following formula will be used to determine your course grade:

10% = Class Activities

25% = Compositions

25% = Quizzes

40% = Tests

Per school policy, one test per quarter is eligible for a second attempt—a retake. Also per school policy, you may have your grade reduced up to 30% for work turned in late—10% per day, to a maximum of three days. Note: This class will be conducted with the expectation that all students will take the AP Exam in May in place of a comprehensive final exam. If you do not take the AP Exam, you must attend the scheduled exam session for this course and take a final exam.

**Late Work:** It is important that you complete all readings, compositions, and assignments by the given due dates so that you can participate thoughtfully in class activities and receive descriptive feedback that will grow your reading, writing, and speaking skills. A course of this magnitude will become even more difficult if you fall behind. Therefore, I will subtract 10% from the grade for the first day an assignment or composition is late, 10% for the second day, and 10% for the third day. After three days, the assignment will be scored as a zero.

**Academic Integrity:** Intellectual honesty is paramount in academic endeavors, and this course is no exception. If an idea is yours, you may of course present it as such. If it is not, you must cite the source. Misrepresenting someone else’s words or ideas as your own is plagiarism, and will result in no credit for the work submitted.

**Conclusion:** This course is for students who seek and are qualified to seek a challenge exceeding that posed by the Honors curriculum. It is expected that you will read the literature with enthusiasm and close attention, and that you will work diligently on the writing. It is also imperative that you are *timely* in your work--faithful to the schedules that will be announced. Among other considerations, you must be dependable, independent, curious, and you must also be mature and classy in your *demeanor*. This is a tall order. You must know this as you enter the process. Finally, though the workload is heavy and there are high expectations for your performance, the course is designed to help you develop your language skills in ways and to a degree you cannot foresee at this point. This is exciting indeed. I welcome all of you as we begin this journey together.