**Course – Ninth Grade Literature and Composition**

## Teacher - Ms. Tish Terry

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**Course Website –** [**http://terryenglish.weebly.com**](http://terryenglish.weebly.com) **(may access directly or through staff page of CHS site,** [**www.cartersvilleschools.org/CHS**](http://www.cartersvilleschools.org/CHS)**)**

 **At some point during the school year, course resources will shift to Schoology. Students will be guided through this transition.**

**Course Description –** This class is designed for students to grow as individuals equipped for lifelong learning by improving grammar and usage, strengthening writing and vocabulary, enhancing reading comprehension, and refining speaking and listening skills. In this course, students will study literature (both prose and poetry), grammar, vocabulary, research skills, and composition.

## Learning Objectives-

* To familiarize the student with high school level work and writing
* To improve and strengthen writing skills and critical thinking skills
* To strengthen the use of grammar and mechanics as well as vocabulary
* To practice and develop formal speaking skills and listening skills

## Course Resources - Electronic and print resources will be utilized as texts for this course. CHS has a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policy allowing students to utilize their personal electronic devices to access classroom resources using the school’s network at the discretion of the classroom teacher. Students must adhere at all times to the school’s electronic device policy as outlined in the *CHS Student Handbook*. For up-to-date class information and resources, please visit the class website listed at the top of this syllabus. Here, you and your student will find texts, handouts, audio recordings, and supplemental electronic resources supporting classroom instruction.

#### Schedule of Units, Assignments, and Due Dates- Source materials will be incorporated into units of study. Ongoing modes of assessment are included in each unit to ensure that students are progressing towards mastery of the unit objectives. Students will receive notification of all summative assessments at least three class days in advance.

**Method of Evaluation** - The course grade is determined by the student’s total performance. Students will earn a cumulative grade for each of the two semesters, and those two grades will be averaged together for one course grade at the end of the year. Throughout both semesters, grades will be recorded in the following categories: Tests & Projects (40%), Compositions (35%), and Daily Assignments (25%). There will be a mid-term exam administered at the end of first semester, and the Georgia Milestones EOC for this course will be completed at the end of second semester. The EOC is averaged as 20% of the total course grade.

**Grade Reporting** – Parents and students are encouraged to utilize Power School in order to monitor ongoing academic progress and attendance. If you have not obtained your log in and password for this tool, please contact the CHS front office staff at (770) 382-3200 for assistance. I update grades in PowerSchool on a weekly basis. In addition to online reporting, consolidated progress reports are sent home on a regular basis.

### Focused Student Assistance – FAB tutorial sessions are offered to students each Wednesday afternoon following early general dismissal. Depending upon grade level and course average, some students are required to report to class tutoring; other students have the option of attending tutorial sessions for a quiet and supportive work environment, for teacher assistance with class assignments, reading and/or writing skills, test preparation, or to complete an assessment missed due to absence. More details about FAB sessions will be sent home with students and posted on the CHS homepage in the early fall.

**Assignment Completion** – Each student must submit his/her work when due. Late assignments, regardless of the reason, will not be accepted for full credit. The student will lose 10 points per day for late work; however, the final point value is subject to my standards-based review Assignments will not be accepted after a 5-day window. If an assignment has already been graded by me and returned to other students, I reserve the right to require completion of an alternative assignment. Students who miss an assignment due to absence must complete make-up work in accordance with policy outlined in the CHS Student Handbook. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain and complete all missed work in a timely manner. Incomplete assignments will result in a grade of zero.

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**Course Notebook** **-** Organization is critical to student success; accordingly, a course notebook should be established and maintained throughout the year with all work and resources filed in chronological order. A suggested format follows: Inside front cover - Course Syllabus; Divider 1 – Warm Ups; Divider 2 - Notes; Divider 3 – Graded Assignments.

## Classroom Policies and Procedures – All students are expected to follow the collaboratively established Class Code for this course, which is supported by the system-wide Canes Code. Accordingly, students are expected to commit to academic excellence, to own their own behavior, to demonstrate respect, and to exhibit a positive attitude in the classroom. These expectations are clearly established, discussed, and posted in the classroom.

**Consequences of Behavioral Infractions** – Failure to comply with the established and posted Class Code will result in the following consequences depending upon the severity and/or frequency of the infraction: peer “check,” teacher warning, teacher counseling, teacher detention, parent/coach/sponsor contact, and/or administrative referral. Teacher detention will be held as necessary on a weekly basis. Detention must be served within one-week of assignment to avoid administrative referral.

**Leaving the Classroom** – Students are expected to remain in the classroom. In order to accommodate the occasional urgent needs, each student will be given four hall passes per semester. Additional passes will not be granted unless a parent/guardian communicates extenuating circumstances to me.

**Statement on Plagiarism** - Avoid plagiarism: the act of taking someone else’s words or ideas and using them as your own. It may be done intentionally or because of carelessness. All acts of plagiarism are taken seriously. Unless you receive explicit instructions from me to collaborate with your peers, all work submitted by you must be completed by you. If you “borrow” ideas, you must provide a citation giving credit to the primary resource. Plagiarized assignments will result in a grade of zero and possibly more serious consequences as outlined in the *CHS Student Handbook* distributed to each student.