



## *PRE-AP ENGLISH 9*

**Mrs. Elizabeth Cairns**

**eacairns@madisoncity.k12.al.us**

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***Course Description:***

This accelerated paced course will help prepare students for Advanced Placement English Language or Advanced Placement English Literature. Pre-AP English 9 provides students with experiences to enrich and expand their acquisition of grammar and communication skills, appreciation of literature and selected classics, organization and presentation of ideas and concepts, and cultivation of a variety of individual writing styles (as stated by the curriculum catalog on the BJHS website). It is recommended that students registered for this course maintained an A in English 8 or received credit for Honors English 8.

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***Classroom Expectations:***

You are expected to conduct yourself in a respectful and productive manner. In addition to all the rules and expectations listed in the student handbook, I expect you to have a positive attitude, treat others with respect, practice self-discipline, and demonstrate responsibility.

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***Classroom Management Plan:***

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- Verbal reprimand
- Conference with student with parent contact
- Withdrawal of privilege(s) with parent contact
- Other consequences determined to be reasonable and appropriate by the school administration.

**Cell Phones**

Cell phones and earbuds/headphones will not be allowed to be used during classroom instruction time. Phones and earbuds/headphones will be put away in a location designated by the teacher and placed in silent mode. In secondary schools, students will have access to their phones and earbuds/headphones outside of classroom instruction time such as between classes and lunch. Failure to follow these procedures will result in a disciplinary referral to the office.

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***Grading Policy:***

Major assessments will count 70 percent of your grade. Homework and classwork will account for 30 percent of your grade. Grades will be updated weekly in PowerSchools. Each grading period will consist of nine weeks.

Cheating and plagiarism of any kind are never tolerated. The academic misconduct policy of the school will be followed in this course. All sources should be credited, including any use of AI (artificial intelligence.)



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### *Make-up Work Policy:*

**Make-up tests** will **only** be given to a student who has an **excused absence**. **The student must make arrangements with the teacher to take a make-up test. Tests may be taken during Patriot Path with prior arrangement from each teacher.** A student only has two chances (the next two Patriot Paths after the absence) to make up a test. All make-up tests will be administered in the designated classroom on the Patriot Path session roster.

**Homework/Classwork:** Students who are absent for **excused reasons** will be permitted to make up missed work. **It is the student's responsibility to get their work assignments the day upon return to school and complete the assignments according to a time frame determined by the teacher within two weeks of the date of the last absence.** Grades of zero will be assigned for assignments missed because of unexcused absences.

Late work creates a backlog for you and your teacher. Work not turned in on time will receive a grade of zero until completed. Daily assignments that are turned in after the work has been checked by the teacher may receive no higher than 50%. Late tests/grades may not receive higher than 75%. Exceptions may be made at the teacher's discretion, especially for extenuating circumstances. Please communicate with your teacher.

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### *Texts and Other Required Reading:*

*StudySync, Reading & Writing Companion* (textbook)  
*The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkein (Summer Reading)  
*The Odyssey* by Homer  
*The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare (NoFearShakespeare text provided, but purchasing your own is recommended)

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### *Materials and Supplies Needed:*

**Materials:**  
3 ring binder (1 or 1 ½ “)  
College ruled loose-leaf paper  
Dividers  
Post-it notes  
Pens (black or blue ink) or pencils  
Highlighters (blue, green, and yellow at least)  
Personal copies of novels (if possible).  
Optional: composition or wire bound notebook for daily bellwork  
Bring these materials to class daily as well as: library book or personal book to read when/if finished with daily work  
Your school issued Chromebook—charged  
\*\*Access to a computer and an internet connection at home is necessary from time to time.  
If you do not have these materials, please communicate with me.

**Teacher Wish List:** If possible, the following items would be appreciated in maintaining a clean and engaging environment for students. Our classroom would happily accept hand sanitizer, Kleenex, Clorox wipes, paper towels, Lysol or Clorox disinfecting spray, post-it notes, notebook paper, highlighters, pencils and/or pens as well as any other donations fit for an English classroom. Thank you in advance for investing in our students!

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**Laptops:**

**Concerning laptop utilization:** 1. Student laptops should not be hard-wired to the network or have print capabilities. 2. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers. 3. Neither the teacher, nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops. 4. Laptops and other electronic devices will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher.

**Turnitin Notice:**

The majority of writing assignments in this course will be submitted to Turnitin via the Schoology learning platform. Turnitin generates a report on the originality of student writing by comparing it with a database of periodicals, books, online content, student papers, and other published work. This program will help students discern when they are using sources fairly, citing properly, and paraphrasing effectively - skills essential to all academic work.

Students will have the opportunity to review their Turnitin originality report and will have the opportunity to make revisions before submitting their work for grading. Once their work is submitted, teachers have the opportunity to view the student/s originality report and grade accordingly.

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**Accommodations:**

Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.

18 – WEEK PLAN*	
Weeks 1-4	Unit 1 <i>The Hobbit</i> → Hero's Journey and Elements of Fiction
Weeks 5-7	Unit 2 Homer's <i>The Odyssey</i> → Comparative Analysis and the Hero's Journey, continued
Weeks 8-9	Unit 3 Short Story Cycle 1 → Literary Analysis and Skills Focus
Weeks 10-12	Unit 4 William Shakespeare's <i>The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet</i> —Drama; Theme Analysis
Weeks 13-16	Unit 5 Short Story Cycle 2 → Literary Analysis Research
Weeks 17-18	Unit 6 Poetry and Review/Prepare for Final

**\*This is a tentative plan and may change at the discretion of the teacher.**

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### Mrs. Cairns Pre-AP English 9 Parent/Guardian & Student Contract

**Please initial/sign below in ink:**

\_\_\_\_\_ We have read the syllabus for Mrs. Cairns' English 9 course and understand the expectations for the course and classroom policies.

\_\_\_\_\_ We understand that Mrs. Cairns will contact us about any concerns or classroom information via the information supplied on this page.

\_\_\_\_\_ We understand that phones should be on silent and be put away during class unless otherwise instructed.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Plagiarism Statement:** We understand that the downloading of material in part or whole, cutting and pasting sections from online sources or copying material from other sources (to include other students) **WITHOUT giving credit to the source by citing it properly, is considered plagiarism** and will result in ZERO for the assignment and teacher communication with parents and administration. Students will be given opportunities to check their work before submitting it using Turnitin. All outside sources must be credited, including the use of AI (artificial intelligence.)

**PLEASE NOTE:** AI may be used as a tool but not in place of skills students are to be mastering in the classroom. Student's work should demonstrate their own thinking and ability.

**Please sign below to acknowledge that you have received, read, and understood the syllabus.**

**Student name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/guardian name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/guardian, please provide two ways for me to contact you (email address, phone numbers):**

Parent/guardian Email:

Parent/Guardian Phone number:

\*Please feel free to email me with any questions, concerns, or anything you would like me to know about your child at eacairns@madisoncity.k12.al.us