

**Mrs. Vondra**  
**English I Honors; Yearbook**  
**Room 206**  
**Sarah.Vondra@fwisd.org**  
**mrsvondra.com**  
**Tutoring:** Lunch  
or after school, daily

## Overview

This course is designed to prepare students to understand and appreciate language by introducing them to a variety of literature, writing styles, grammar techniques, and vocabulary. The course is meant to prepare the student for future learning and to be successful on the STAAR exam, later AP exams, college entrance exams such as the SAT or ACT, and life. Many of our activities will be geared towards incorporating both reading and writing in our daily lives. Students will **read extensively**, **write extensively**, recognize and use SAT-level vocabulary, and experiment with a variety of writing modes. Upon exiting this course, the student will possess a variety of critical thinking and writing skills that will aid in their academic and professional future.

## Supplies : *Due by August 24<sup>th</sup>*

- ❖ **School Laptop or personal device:** You will need it occasionally in class (I'll let you know the day before to make sure you bring it), and you will need it **every week** for homework.
- ❖ **Pens/pencils:** Always come prepared. I don't care what you use, as long as it writes and can be read (highlighter doesn't count).
- ❖ **One-inch (1") binder:** This will be where you keep everything for this class. You *MUST* bring this daily. This is where you will keep handouts, graded work, warm-ups, notes, and other important papers.
- ❖ **5 Dividers for binder:** We will assemble them together in class. They will be labeled as follows:
  - Resources
  - Annotation Packet
  - Warm ups
  - Notes
  - Graded Work
- ❖ **Loose-leaf Paper:** To be stored in your binder. Will be used for warm ups, notes, assignments, etc.
- ❖ **Highlighters:** You will need **five** different colors. We will use these frequently in class, so be sure to always have them with you, even if that means putting them in a pencil pouch in the front of your binder. (HINT: Target, Walmart, and office supply stores have assorted packs of highlighters. For example, there are target brand highlighters that come in a pack of orange, purple, yellow, blue, pink, and green. These would be perfect.)

- ❖ (optional) **USB thumb drive:** The best way to save computer written papers and bring them to class to print if you had printer issues at home, or lack a working printer.
- ❖ **EXTRA CREDIT** For a free 100% bring a box of Kleenex to donate to the classroom.

### Grading Procedure

Each 6 weeks, grades will be figured according to:

**70% - Daily grade average:** all quizzes, daily activities, classroom participation, process paper pre-steps, group work, homework, annotations, etc.

**30% - Major grade average:** Includes major literature and novel exams, binder checks, essays, projects, etc.

#### ❖ **Extra Credit:**

- I offer four types of extra credit every 6-weeks. You may do each opportunity once every six-weeks, equaling a total of three extra credit 100%'s and one lowest grade dropped available to you every six-weeks.
  1. You may do any sort of **writing outside of class** (journaling, songs, raps, poems, short stories, fan fiction, letter writing, etc.) and bring it in to me to read. You can receive an extra credit 100% for this.
  2. You may **read an extra 50 pages** (or more) than the required 250 pages of your Independent Reading (for a total of 300+ pages). This will result in an extra credit 100%. *Note: all extra reading, in addition to normal Independent Reading, must be at or above the individual student's current Lexile level.*
  3. You may do an **extra 60 minutes on Membean** over the course of the 6 weeks. This will be an extra credit 100% (it will not replace a 0% if you missed a week of Membean work, it will simply add another 100% to the mix). *IMPORTANT: if you do this extra credit, you must come tell me that you have done it. I will not go check for extra minutes on my own accord.*
  4. You may **donate an old novel** to my classroom library (no children's picture books) and I will drop your lowest daily grade.

### Classroom Rules

#### **Be Honest**

- No cheating. (Duh.)
- Communication is key. I'm here to help you, but if I don't know what's going on, I can't help.
- No excuses. If you didn't do your work, just say so!

#### **Be Hard-Working**

- Be engaged.
- Do your work. I don't expect perfection, I expect effort.
- Try.
- Be invested in what we're doing.
- Show up to class (on time, please!)
- Have your supplies.

#### **Be Helpful**

- Help your tablemates. Rudeness/foul language is not helpful. Don't do it.
- Help yourself (and others) succeed.
- Don't keep me from teaching, don't keep others from learning.

## Classroom Policies at a Glance

### **Homework**

You will have weekly homework assignments on Membean (vocab), NoRedInk (grammar), and Independent Reading (student selected novels). This will start the fourth week of school and will continue practically every week all year long.

### **Phones**

Your phones need a break from you. They're tired of being poked and prodded by you all the time. So, in this class we have a **phone hotel**. Everyday when you walk into class you'll put your phone in the phone hotel numbered pocket that corresponds with your desk number. At the end of the class, you'll take it back. If I catch you with your phone during class when it is supposed to be in the phone hotel I'll turn it in to the office, and you have to pay \$15 to get it back (that is school policy, not mine). Please don't make me do that. If there is some pressing matter that needs you to be on your phone, just ask me. Odds are, I'll let you send a quick text or call.

### **Restrooms/Water**

Don't interrupt what we're doing. You're responsible for what you miss. Raise your hand, but be sneaky. Only emergencies. Your phone stays in the phone hotel. Take the hall pass.

### **Absent**

If you know you are going to be out prior to the absence, I suggest you get work from me ahead of time. Either way, you must come ask what you missed when you return. **You are fully responsible for the work that takes place, even if you weren't there that day.** You have as many days as you were absent to make up the work. If you are absent on a day(s) prior to a previously announced test or quiz, your testing date will not change. If you miss a Thursday, even if excused, you still have to take the test on Friday.

### **Late Work**

You get 10 points off for the first 5 days. After that, you can *always* turn in work for a 50%. It's better than a 0% in the gradebook. I'm for you.

*Making up Homework assignments (No Red Ink and Membean): No Red Ink can be made up on the student's own time. When finished, the student must email me and let me know they completed a late NRI assignment so that I know to go pull a grade for them. To make up a Membean 0%, the student must come in for tutoring and log 30 minutes on Membean. At that point I will replace the 0% for a 60%.*

### **Tutoring**

I am almost always available during lunch or after school if you need any help or tutoring. Just give me a heads up before hand so I can make sure I am there. I have second lunch, and I know most of you have first lunch. I have a class during first lunch, therefore the only thing you'll be able to do during first lunch tutoring is Membean make up, because you won't need my help. For anything else, please come either during second lunch (if you have it off) or after school. If you're not there ten minutes after the last bell rings (in my room by 3:50), I'll assume you're not coming.

## **Corrections**

If you are unhappy with your grade on *anything*, you can *always* correct the work for half the missed points back. You will correct the answers, explain why that is the right answer, then turn it in with the original work.

## **Cheating**

Don't do it. If I see it, I'm taking it up. If it's for my class, it's a 0% that you cannot make up. If it's for another class, I'll take it up and email that teacher.

## **Contacting Me**

Parents and students can contact me via my school email at **Sarah.Vondra@fwisd.org**. This is my preferred method, and will result in the fastest response time. I can also be reached via the school office at 817-815-1000. My conference/planning period is **period 6** I am available before and after school with an appointment as well.

## **Text Reminders**

Using Remind.com, I will occasionally send texts about important due dates, class info and reminders, etc. Remind.com is a safe site where I never see your phone number and you never see mine.

Period 1: Text 81010 with the message "@svondra1"

Period 3: Text 81010 with the message "@svondra3"

Period 7: Text 81010 with the message "@svondra7"

Period 8: Text 81010 with the message "@svondra8"

## **Website**

I have a website for our class. The URL is **mrsvondra.com**. I will have posted reminders about homework, upcoming due dates, classroom policies, current calendar, and I will upload all handouts so that if you ever lose something you can go print it out. This is definitely one of the most important tools I can offer you for this class.

**Wrap up**

I look forward to having a fun year full of learning and success! Your academic success is a team effort between you, your parent, and me. Let's all work together to ensure you achieve everything you want to in this class. Please sign the document acknowledging and agreeing to adhere to all of the aforementioned policies. Please return this last page to me by Friday of the first week of school. Thank you!

-----

**Student Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Printed name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Parent/guardian phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/guardian email address:** \_\_\_\_\_