

Course: English I
Teacher: Keely Hitchings
Phone: 699-2999 ext. 317
E-mail: khitchings@richland2.org

Tutoring is available by prior arrangement only.

- **Late Work:** Late homework will not be accepted. All other submitted work will be graded up to three days late unless prior arrangements have been made between me and the student or parent.
 - **Extra Credit:** There is no extra credit. Occasionally, students will have the opportunity to earn a small amount of bonus points on quizzes, tests, or in-class assignments.
 - **Homework:** Homework is assigned on an as needed basis. It is due the day after it is assigned. Late homework will not be accepted. Homework assignments for this class can always be checked on my website: <http://www.rvh.richland2.org/~khitchings/>
 - **Course Description:** English consists of the study of grammar, vocabulary and the various genres including short stories, plays, poetry, novels and nonfiction readings. Since English is a humanities class, we will explore the human condition via a variety of texts, including art, music and film (in addition to more traditional texts). English I is a general survey in which students are expected to write, read and think independently about a variety of ideas.
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Course Requirements: At school, you will need a notebook, loose leaf paper (college ruled), pencils, pens (blue or black ink), and a composition book (a journal with whatever decorations you prefer, they are traditionally marbled black and white, but it may not be a spiral notebook). In my class, you will need self-control, a positive attitude, an open mind and curiosity. Please note: during the school year, you may need other supplies to complete various projects. I will notify you several days in advance about these materials. Any student who cannot obtain materials for any reason should notify me immediately to make other arrangements.

Course Suggestions: Most students will find a thumb drive to be a very helpful device for getting work from home to school and back to home.

Grading Breakdown: Grades are on a point basis. Your grade for this course is calculated based on points you earn on homework, written papers, tests, quizzes, projects, writer's workshop silent reading, and various other assignments. The more weight an assignment has, the higher the point value. **For example, homework assignments are worth 5-10 points. Quizzes are usually 20-30 points, and tests, projects, and papers are 50-100 points.** Essays and projects will be graded using rubrics. You will have semester exams—once in January and again in May. These exams are cumulative for their given semester.

Grading Scale: A: 93-100 B: 85-92 C: 77-84 D: 70-76 F: 0-69
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Each of the 4 nine weeks is worth 20% of your final grade. The state mandated and published End of Course exam (EOC) is worth 20%. Grades are calculated by total number of points earned divided by total number of points possible.

- At RVHS, teachers are required to show students their current grade each week. When I show you your grade in my class, you must initial that you have seen your grade. Since you are a responsible high school student, it is up to you to record your grade in your agenda book and share this information with your parents.
 - School grade reports (interims) and class grade printouts are sent home every three weeks.
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Plagiarism Policy: Plagiarized work will result in a zero for that assignment and an administrative referral. Your parent/guardian will also be contacted.

- **All students in Richland 2 will be held to the Academic Integrity Policy/Honor Pledge:**
~On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this assignment. I understand that any violation of the RSD2 honor code will result in academic and disciplinary action.

Please note that "cutting and pasting" information from the Internet is considered plagiarism.

Absentee Policy: Each student has been instructed to get the name and phone number of at least 2 other students in this class to call for assignments in case of an absence. Students may also call me at

the school or check the website to learn what the day's assignments were. Students must come to me and work out a make-up work plan. Make-up work is allowed, but it is the job of the student to establish a time for this. Ultimately, you are responsible for your work---it is not my responsibility to harass you for your assignments.

Class Procedures

Beginning of Class:

- Bring supplies in your book bag each day—**be prepared**.
- As soon as you enter the classroom, take your seat and get out your silent reading materials.
- Once the bell rings, all talking should cease and silent reading should begin immediately.

During Class:

- Raise your hand before asking or answering a question so that you have everyone's attention and each student has the opportunity to participate and think—**be respectful**.
- Do not talk when another person is talking—**be respectful**.
- Sit up, listen and participate—**be inquisitive!**

Leaving the Classroom:

- You may not leave the room during the first 10 minutes or the last 10 minutes of class.
- Any other request to leave the room will be at my discretion.
- Be sure you sign out and sign back in. (Roster is on my door.)

End of Class:

- The teacher, not the bell, determines when class is over. **The bell is only a signal to the teacher**. Do not pack up in anticipation of the end of class.
 - Before leaving, be sure your desk is in its original position and clean up the area around your desk.
 - Every week, I will show you your current grade in my class. You must sign/initial this grade verification so that I know who has received their grades. Again---it is your responsibility to record your grade once you have seen it; it is also your responsibility to share this information with your parents as they request it.
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Class Rules: *Be prepared and on time with tools and homework.

*Respect others and respect yourself.

*No grooming products.

*Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.

*Do not disturb others.

*BE INQUISITIVE—focus, think, ask questions—**participate!**

Consequences: Verbal Warning—Lunch Detention—Call Home---Administrative Referral

***Severe misbehavior will result in immediate administrative referral and possible removal from the classroom.

Textbooks: Elements of Literature, fiction and nonfiction readings as assigned

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date